

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)

AGENDA

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

12:00pm – 1:30pm

ZOOM

Documents available in [Box](#)
[Graduate Council Duties](#)

I. Consent Calendar – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:00pm – 12:05pm

- A. Today’s Agenda
- B. [September 17 Draft Meeting Minutes](#)
- C. [GC’s Draft Memo Re: Proposed New Senate Regulation 627 \(Posthumous Awarding of Degrees\)](#)

Requested Action: Approval of the Consent Calendar.

II. Chair’s Report – John Abatzoglou – 12:05pm – 12:15pm

- A. September 26 SNS & SOE Graduate Group Chairs’ Meeting

III. Vice Chair’s Report – Vice Chair Beattie – 12:15pm – 12:25pm

- A. September 23 Divisional Council Meeting

IV. COI on Graduate Student Committees – All – 12:25pm – 12:45pm

In Spring 2024, GC discussed conflicts of interest on graduate student committees, and the AY 23-24 GC Policy Subcommittee suggested the following language be added to the Graduate Policies and Procedures Handbook:

To avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest, such as when domestic partners or spouses are on a graduate student’s committee, those potential conflicts of interest must be disclosed in writing to the student.

Current relevant language that is included in the Graduate Policies and Procedures is available [here](#).

At the September 17, 2024 GC meeting, members further discussed the topic noting that there is no personal or financial gain from serving on a graduate student committee, and therefore, a COI policy may not be the best solution.

Members agreed to further discuss this item with VPDGE Hratchian. Graduate Studies Associate Dean Sayantani Ghosh will also join today’s discussion.

Requested Action: Members to further discuss with VPDGE Hratchian and Graduate Studies Associate Dean Ghosh and determine the next steps.

V. Consultation with Dean of University Extension Annette Roberts Webb and Director of Extension and Degree Completion Michael Pierick – 12:45pm – 1:05pm

- A. University Extension Updates
B. Curriculum Advisory Board (CAB)

Requested Action: After guests depart, voting members determine next steps for CAB. The GC Analyst will provide the Senate Chair with another update on CAB.

VI. Campus Wide Review Items – Chair Abatzoglou – 1:05pm – 1:10pm

- A. [Proposed Revisions to MAPP Sections 2013, 2014, 2053 and 2054](#)

The [Cover memo from VPAP Hansford](#) includes a brief summary of the proposed revisions.

Requested Action: GC is to decide whether to opine. If opining, assign a lead reviewer. Lead reviewer will send their comments to the GC Analysts by Monday, October 21, 2024 and will serve as the basis for GC’s official response.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by Monday, October 28, 2024.

- B. [SSHA Reorganization Proposal](#)

Overall, the revised Bylaws provide clearer role descriptions, emphasize the creation and function of Section Councils, and update quorum and voting requirements to ensure consistency.

Requested Action: GC is to decide whether to opine. If opining, assign a lead reviewer. Lead reviewer will send their comments to the GC Analysts by Monday, October 21, 2024 and will serve as the basis for GC’s official response.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by Monday, November 4, 2024.

- C. [UC Merced Interim Policy on Expressive Activities and Assembly: Protests, Demonstrations, Non-University Speakers and Signage on Campus and in University Facilities](#)

Updates align with mandatory directives issued by the UC Office of the President and include:

- Mandatory revisions required by [California State Senate Bill 108, SEC. 219, 34](#) implemented under [UC Merced’s Campus Climate Initiative](#).
- Technical updates to owner, contact information, and resources.
- Clarifications around disruptions of a university activity, proximity of activities, signage, unauthorized structures, and consequences.
- Moved Protest Oversight Group (POG) membership/roles & responsibilities to Appendix.

GC is a lead reviewer.

Requested Action: Identify a lead reviewer. The lead reviewer will share their comments with the GC Analyst by November 4, 2024, which will serve as the basis for GC’s formal response to the Senate Chair.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by November 18, 2024.

VII. VPDGE Hratchian's Report – 1:10pm – 1:25pm

- A. Fall 2025 Admissions
- B. Recruiting and Continuing Fellowships

VIII. Any Other Business – 1:25pm – 1:30pm