

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**AGENDA****Tuesday, October 15, 2024****12:00pm – 1:30pm****ZOOM**Documents available in [Box](#)
[Graduate Council Duties](#)**I. Executive Session – Voting Members Only – 12:00pm – 12:10pm****II. Consent Calendar – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:10pm – 12:15pm**

- A. Today's Agenda
- B. [October 1 Draft Meeting Minutes](#)
- C. [Request from University Extension for expedited review of several EDUC-X courses once they reach GC's step in Curriculum.](#)
- D. [Request from SOE for an exception to the deadline to offer EECS 224 in Spring 2025](#)

Requested Action: Approval of the Consent Calendar.**III. Chair's Report – John Abatzoglou – 12:15pm – 12:25pm**

- A. October 2 CCGA Meeting
- B. October 7 Divisional Council Meeting
- C. GC representative for PROC Administrative Review Meeting on November 21, 2024 from 3:00pm – 4:30pm

IV. Conflict Resolution for Graduate Committees – All – 12:25pm – 12:40pm

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.

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.

At the October 1, 2024 GC meeting, members further discussed the topic with Graduate Studies Associate Dean Sayantani Ghosh and agreed that a broader definition, such as conflict resolution procedures, may be more appropriate than conflict of interest.

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

Requested Action: Members further discuss and provide their recommended guidance to VPDGE Hratchian and Graduate Studies Associate Dean Ghosh.

V. Discussion: Graduate Funding – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:40pm – 12:55pm

- A. How is normative time-to-degree defined?
- B. Align policies and procedures to reflect real time-to-degree.
- C. The impacts of time-to-degree on allocated funding and impact of being unable to financially support students late in their degree program. Currently an isolated problem, but what potential is there for more widespread issues on the horizon?

Requested Action: Members to discuss and determine the next steps.

VI. Campus Wide Review Items – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:55pm – 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.

At the October 1, 2024 GC meeting, Chair Abatzoglou asked members to review the proposed revisions and share any comments.

Requested Action: GC is to decide whether to opine. If opining, identify a lead reviewer. Lead reviewer will send their comments to the GC Analyst by October 21, 2024.

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.

At the October 1, 2024 GC meeting, Chair Abatzoglou asked members to review the proposal and share any comments.

Requested Action: GC is to decide whether to opine. If opining, identify a lead reviewer. Lead reviewer will send their comments to the GC Analyst by October 21, 2024.

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.

Lead Reviewers: Policy Subcommittee Members Abatzoglou, Beattie, and Frank
Lead reviewers' draft memo is available [here](#).

Requested Action: Members discuss the policy and lead reviewer's assessment. If there is consensus, voting members vote to approve the draft memo.

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

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

- A. [Degrees of Determination Program](#)
- B. 25% Tuition Reduction Program
- C. Externally Funded GSR Traineeships and GSR Fellowships

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