

**GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)****AGENDA****Friday, March 7, 2025****11:30am – 1:00pm****ZOOM**

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

**I. Consent Calendar – Chair Abatzoglou – 11:30am – 11:40am**

- A. Today's Agenda
- B. [February 21 Draft Meeting Minutes](#)
- C. SSHA Petition for Graduate Student to Teach Upper Division Course  
[Espinoza Selina PSY 191 202520](#)
- D. Courses  
[PHYS - 272 - Quantum Information Science](#) (New; Fall 2025)

**Requested Action:** Approval of the Consent Calendar.

**II. Chair's Report – John Abatzoglou – 11:40am – 11:50am**

- A. February 25 Divisional Council Meeting
- B. February 27 Meeting with UGC Leads
- C. March 5 CCGA Meeting
- D. March 6 SNS and SOE Graduate Group Chairs' Meeting

**III. Vice Chair's Report – Irene Beattie – 11:50am – 12:00pm**

- A. Shared Program Review Workgroup

**IV. [GC's Policy on Graduate Students Teaching Graduate Students](#) – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:00pm – 12:10pm**

At their February 11, 2025 meeting, Divisional Council (DivCo) members reviewed the revised GC policy for Graduate Students Teaching Graduate Students. DivCo expressed support for the policy but offered a suggestion for refinement regarding the approval process of Instructors of Record (IOR), section I. item 6 of the policy. Specifically, it was proposed that GC be removed as an approver of these requests.

The proposed revisions can be found in tracked changes on page 2 of DivCo's memo available [here](#). A clean version of the policy is available [here](#).

**Requested Action:** Members to review DivCo's recommendation and vote to approve if there is a consensus.

**V. Discussion: Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:10pm – 12:25pm**

At the February 21, 2025 GC meeting, members discussed Artificial Intelligence (AI) in relation to

graduate education and academic integrity. Currently, the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) oversees academic honesty and misconduct through the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) and the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

Existing UC Merced Policies and Guidance:

- OSRR: [UCM Academic Integrity](#)  
“Plagiarism refers to the use of another’s ideas or words without proper attribution, or credit.”
- Research Compliance and Integrity: [Research Misconduct](#)
- Graduate Policies and Procedures Handbook (GPPH): [Academic Disqualification](#) (page 40)
- [Using AI in Instruction](#)

Related Articles Regarding the Use of AI:

- [Protecting Human Cognition in the Age of AI](#)
- [AI Tools in Society: Impacts on Cognitive Offloading and the Future of Critical Thinking](#)

GC Brainstorm Google Doc on AI Policies for Graduate Education is available [here](#).

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

#### **VI. Waiver Policy for In-Person Graduate Defenses – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:25pm – 12:40pm**

Faculty with ADA-based accommodations to work remotely have concerns about the policy requirement in the [Graduate Policies & Procedures Handbook](#) (page 39) mandating in-person attendance at graduate defenses. Some faculty members make every effort to attend defenses in person, but often times they are unable to do so and are then required to fill out last-minute waivers so that they can attend the defenses remotely.

Relevant language from UC Merced and other UC campuses is available [here](#).

**Requested Action:** Members to discuss and determine a resolution.

#### **VII. Campus and Systemwide Review Items – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:40pm – 12:45pm**

##### **A. [Business Administration B.A. and Minor Proposal](#) (Campus wide)**

The proposal is from SSHA with implementation planned for Fall 2026 for first-year and continuing students, and Fall 2027 for transfer students.

**Requested Action:** GC to decide whether to opine. If opining, identify a lead reviewer. The lead reviewer’s comments will be circulated via email by Monday, March 31, 2025, and will serve as the basis for GC’s official response to the Senate Chair.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Monday, April 7, 2025**.

##### **B. [Accounting B.S. and Minor Proposal](#) (Campus wide)**

The proposal is from SSHA with implementation planned for Fall 2026 for first-year and continuing students, and Fall 2028 for transfer students.

**Requested Action:** GC to decide whether to opine. If opining, identify a lead reviewer. The lead

reviewer's comments will be circulated via email by Monday, March 31, 2025, and will serve as the basis for GC's official response to the Senate Chair.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Monday, April 7, 2025.**

C. [Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-63: Risk Transfer and Insurance Requirements](#) (Systemwide)

Summary of proposed revisions:

- Clarify that the scope of the policy covers both indemnification and insurance requirements in contracts between the University and contractors or external users;
- Modify the responsible parties at each location to allow for local designations;
- Clarify the exception process; and
- Expand the FAQ section to provide additional details and clarification.

**Requested Action:** GC to decide whether to opine. If opining, identify a lead reviewer. The lead reviewer's comments will be circulated via email by Monday, March 31, 2025, and will serve as the basis for GC's official response to the Senate Chair.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Friday, April 11, 2025.**

D. [Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report](#) (Systemwide)

In September 2024, UC Provost Katherine Newman and systemwide Academic Senate Chair Steven Cheung established a collaborative Academic Planning Council (APC) workgroup, bringing together faculty and administrators. Tasked with evaluating the existing academic calendars, the workgroup aimed to identify enhancements that will better support the University of California's mission in teaching, research, and public service. This comprehensive review focuses specifically on the academic calendars of UC's nine undergraduate campuses, excluding UC San Francisco and graduate professional programs.

**Requested Action:** GC to decide whether to opine. If opining, identify a lead reviewer. The lead reviewer's comments will be circulated via email by Friday, April 4, 2025, and will serve as the basis for GC's official response to the Senate Chair.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Monday, April 14, 2025.**

**VIII. VPDGE Hratchian's Report - 12:45pm – 12:55pm**

A. Graduate Visitation Day

**IX. Any Other Business – 12:55pm – 1:00pm**