

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**AGENDA****Friday, March 21, 2025****11:30am – 1:00pm****ZOOM**

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

I. Executive Session – Voting Members Only – 11:30am – 11:40am**II. Consent Calendar – Chair Abatzoglou – 11:40am – 11:50am**

A. Today's Agenda

B. [March 7 Draft Meeting Minutes](#)

C. Courses

[COGS - 224 - Neural Networks in Cognitive Science](#) (New; Spring 2026)[COGS - 250 - Cognitive Science Graduate Seminar](#) (Modify Existing; Spring 2026)[EDUC - X485 - AP Content and Pedagogy for Teachers](#) (New; Fall 2025)[ECON - 242 - Public Economics](#) (New; Spring 2026)[GSTU - 210 - Research Proposal for Advancement to Candidacy](#) (Modify Existing; Fall 2025)**Requested Action:** Approval of the Consent Calendar.**III. Chair's Report – John Abatzoglou – 11:50am – 12:00pm**

A. March 11 Divisional Council Meeting

B. March 20 All Graduate Group Chairs' Meeting

C. [Proposed Amendments to GC's Policy for the Establishment of Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs](#)**IV. Vice Chair's Report – Irene Beattie – 12:00pm – 12:05pm**

A. March 13 PROC Meeting

V. [In-Person Exam Sessions for Online Courses](#) – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:05pm – 12:15pm

The Registrar's Office is seeking further clarification from UGC and GC on the scope of an instructional modality definition in their course approval policies. Both policy documents indicate that Online courses have 0% contact hours in person, that 100% of the contact hours are delivered remotely, and that there are no in-person meetings. This raises the following questions:

1. Does this definition extend to exam sessions, including midterms and finals, so that fully online course sections cannot offer in-person exam meetings and must hold them remotely?
2. Or are online sections allowed to offer in-person exams based on the preference of the instructor or departmental scheduling unit?

Requested Action: Members to discuss and provide feedback to UGC. UGC will review GC's feedback

and provide a collective response to the Registrar.

VI. Discussion: Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:15pm – 12:30pm

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](#). At the March 7, 2025 GC meeting, members discussed their various opinions regarding AI use and possible recommendations for action. Following the discussion, Chair Abatzoglou agreed to synthesize the committee's comments for further discussion at a future meeting.

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](#)

Requested Action: Members to review Chair Abatzoglou's comments on the [GC Brainstorm Google Doc on AI Policies for Graduate Education](#), engage in further discussion, and determine the next steps.

VII. Waiver Policy for In-Person Graduate Defenses – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:30pm – 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. At the March 7, 2025 GC meeting, members discussed possible resolutions. Chair Abatzoglou agreed to synthesize the committee's comments and provide options of resolution for the committee to review at a future meeting.

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

Requested Action: Members to review Chair Abatzoglou's list of possible resolutions and vote to determine which option to move forward with.

VIII. Campus and Systemwide Review Items – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:40pm – 12:45pm

- A. [Interim Policy on Withdrawal of Consent to Remain on University Property](#) (Campus Wide)
The policy outlines implementing procedures of Penal Code Sections 626.4(a) and 626.6 on University Property for the University of California. The policy applies to all campus affiliates (students and employees) and non-affiliates.
 - [California Penal Code Section 626.4](#) refers to campus affiliates, includes a 14-day withdraw of consent and allows for a hearing.

- [California Penal Code Section 626.6](#) refers to non-affiliates, includes a 7-day withdraw of consent and no hearing is afforded.

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, April 7, 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.**

B. [Proposed Revisions to APM 500, Recruitment – Updated](#) (Systemwide)

The policy revisions respond to the need to address two new bills signed into state law that add and amend sections 92612.1 and 92612.2 of the California Education Code, effective January 1, 2025 (reference Senate Bill (SB) 791, Postsecondary education: academic and administrative employees: disclosure of sexual harassment, and California Assembly Bill (AB) 810, Postsecondary education: hiring practices: academic, athletic, and administrative positions). The new revisions are indicated below using **bold** and underlined text.

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, April 7, 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.**

C. [Presidential Policy on High-Containment Research](#) (Systemwide)

The policy includes the following key provisions:

- All high-containment facilities and research activities at all University-owned and/or operated locations.
- The authority of the UC High-Containment Laboratory Oversight Committee is formalized.
- The required elements of a High-Containment Research Program are identified as the local High-Containment Laboratory Oversight Group, the designated High-Containment Laboratory Director, and the High-Containment Laboratory Plan, which details the management and operational safety plan for each high-containment facility.

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, April 14, 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 25, 2025.**

D. [Liberal Studies B.A. Proposal](#) (Campus Wide)

The proposal from SSHA is for the establishment of a B.A. in Liberal Studies with emphasis tracks in Social Sciences, and Humanities and Arts. This program is planned for implementation in Fall 2025 for continuing students and Fall 2026 for first year and 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, April 14, 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 28, 2025.**

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

A. Admissions Updates

B. Future of Doctoral Education Report

X. Any Other Business – 12:55pm – 1:00pm