

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**AGENDA****Friday, April 4, 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 – 11:45am**

A. Today's Agenda

B. [March 21 Draft Meeting Minutes](#)C. [Courses](#)[ECON - 297 - Research Practicum](#) (New; Spring 2026)**Requested Action:** Approval of the Consent Calendar.**III. Chair's Report – John Abatzoglou – 11:45am – 11:55am**

A. April 1 Divisional Council Meeting

B. April 3 SNS & SOE Graduate Group Chairs' Meeting

IV. Discussion: Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Chair Abatzoglou – 11:55am – 12:15pm

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 on the use of AI, as well as recommendations for potential action. Following the discussion, Chair Abatzoglou agreed to synthesize the committee's comments for further discussion at a future meeting.

At the March 21, 2025 GC meeting, members agreed to survey the Graduate Group Chairs for their feedback regarding the use of AI. The Google Doc with potential survey questions is available [here](#).

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 the Google Doc with proposed survey questions.

V. Waiver Policy for In-Person Graduate Defenses – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:15pm – 12:35pm

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.

At the March 21, 2025 GC meeting, members agreed to revise the relevant language in the Graduate Policies & Procedures Handbook.

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

Requested Action: Members to review the [proposed revisions](#) to the relevant Graduate Policies & Procedures Handbook language and vote to approve if there is a consensus.

VI. Campus and Systemwide Review Items – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:35pm – 12:45pm

A. [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.

At the March 21, 2025 GC meeting, Chair Abatzoglou agreed to serve as lead reviewer. His comments are available [here](#).

Requested Action: Members to review the proposed revisions and lead reviewer's comments. If there is consensus, voting members vote to approve the draft memo. The GC Analyst will transmit the final memo to the Senate Chair.

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

B. [Proposed Revisions to APM 360 – Appointment and Promotion, Librarian Series](#)
(Systemwide)

The proposed revisions are intended to update the definition of the Librarian Series.

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.**

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

- A. Graduate Division Task Forces on Graduate Application Review and International Student Orientation
- B. Updates on Admissions and Federal Government

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