

**GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**

**AGENDA**

**Friday, May 16, 2025**

**11:30am – 1:00pm**

**ZOOM**

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

**I. Executive Session – Voting Members Only – 11:30am – 12:00pm**

**II. Consent Calendar – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:00pm – 12:00pm**

- A. Today's Agenda
- B. [April 18 Draft Meeting Minutes](#)
- C. SSHA Petitions for Graduate Students to Teach Upper Division Courses  
[Flores Gabriela SOC 121 202520](#)  
[Nguyen Tran Anh SOC 110 202520](#)
- D. Courses  
[MBSE - 291 - Research Seminar](#) (Modify Existing; Spring 2026)  
[MGMT - X415.7 - Emotional Intelligence for Leaders](#) (New; Fall 2025)

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

**III. Chair's Report – John Abatzoglou – 12:00pm – 12:10pm**

- A. April 22 and May 6 Divisional Council Meetings
- B. May 1 SOE and SNS Graduate Group Chairs' Meeting
- C. May 7 CCGA Meeting
- D. May 7 Meeting of the Division
- E. Update on Graduate Group Artificial Intelligence (AI) Survey

**IV. Vice Chair's Report – Irene Beattie – 12:10pm – 12:20pm**

- A. May 15 PROC Meeting

**V. Update on the Combined Review Work Group – Vice Chair Beattie – 12:20pm – 12:30pm**

The work group held its first meeting on May 2, 2025. Following initial discussions, the work group produced a draft outlining the purposes of the periodic review process for both departments and the institution.

**Requested Action:** GC to review the [draft description](#) and provide feedback to the Combined Review Work Group.

**VI. Joint Senate Work Group on Faculty Oversight of UC Merced's Professional and Continuing**

**Education (PACE) Programs – Vice Chair Beattie – 12:30pm – 12:40pm**

In AY 24-25, GC discussed the concerns raised about the gaps in the current review and governance processes of PACE programs. On March 6, 2025, UGC discussed similar concerns and collectively agreed on the importance of faculty participation in the extension curriculum and supported forming a group comprised of representatives from GC, UGC, and CRE to collaborate to develop new policies. Vice Chair Beattie has since prepared a draft memo and charge to formally propose the establishment of a Joint Senate Work Group on Faculty Oversight of PACE Programs.

**Requested Action:** GC to review the [draft memo](#) and [draft charge](#) and provide feedback.

**VII. Campus Wide Review Item – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:40pm – 12:45pm**

A. [SOE Proposal to Change the Name of the Mechanical Engineering Department to Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering](#)

The proposed name change is being submitted to better reflect the academic breadth and evolving identity of the department. Beginning in Fall 2025, the department will offer two distinct undergraduate degree programs: a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering. This change seeks to ensure that the department's name accurately represents its expanded educational offerings.

*GC is a lead reviewer.*

**Requested Action:** Identify a lead reviewer. The lead reviewer will send their comments to the GC Analyst by Wednesday, May 28, 2025. GC voting members will be invited to review the lead reviewer's draft memo via email.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Friday, June 6, 2025.**

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

- A. Graduate Group Chair Appointments
- B. Graduate Admissions Update
- C. General Graduate Education Update/Discussion
- D. Update on Fee Remissions

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