

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**Meeting Minutes****Monday, April 25, 2022****1:30 – 2:20 PM****COB 2 Room 392****I. Chair's Report (1:30-1:45)–Chair Hestir**

- A. Divisional Council (4/21)
 - a. LASC Chair DePrano further discussed the Library's budgetary concerns.
 - b. VCSA Nies reported on the campus and community safety plan.
 - c. VPDUE Frey reported on the impacts of students attending classes remotely. Students' activity is being tracked through their DUO login authentication, which revealed that students who attended their classes remotely appeared to struggle more than those who attended the class in person.
 - d. Divisional Council members reviewed and endorsed the proposed revisions to the English Major and Minor.
 - e. Divisional Council members also reviewed the new MAPP 283 – Lecturer and Senior Lecturer. The MAPP is being revised to conform to the new MOU with non-Senate lecturers. A notable concern was raised during the meeting related to how National Student Advertising Competition's (NSAC) request for more support and incentives for non-Senate faculty to conduct research and service would be tantamount to an unfunded mandate.
- B. Update on the April 14 Meeting with Prof. Kurtz re: 4+1 programs
On April 14, 2022, GC Chair Hestir and UGC Chair Moyes met with SoE Professor Kurtz who is leading the campus 4+1 Program Proposal. The proposal would allow a student to achieve a Bachelor's and a Master's degree within five years. Once an explicit review process is established, GC members will review the proposal, either over summer or in Fall 2022.

II. Vice Chair's Report (1:45-1:55)–Vice Chair Ha

- A. Graduate Group Chairs Meeting (4/14)
 - a. The annual Graduate Group Chairs Feedback Survey has been circulated to students. The survey aims at soliciting students' feedback on the performance of the chairs throughout the year, and the results will be available soon.
 - b. Several opportunities have been presented to graduate students, including the Adelante Hispanic-Serving Institution (HIS) Future Faculty Boot Camp, the Dissertation Boot Camp, and the Faculty Diversification Fellowship.
 - c. The Grad Slam winner has been announced.
 - d. The Mentorship Training Workshop was successful.
 - e. Approximately 20 students have accepted the Summer Bridge Program invitation this year, and there are plans for a second round of nominations.
 - f. The Continuing Fellowship review has been completed. Financial Services Director, Eric Cannon, has agreed to continue a conversation with Graduate Council next year regarding a revised timeline to avoid a rushed review of applicants.

III. Consent Calendar (1:55-1:55)–Chair Hestir

- A. The agenda (4/25/22)
- B. [Minutes from the 3/28/22 meeting](#)
- C. [Physics P&Ps final approval memo](#)
- D. [SSHA Catalog Entries](#)
- E. [Chemistry & Biochemistry Catalog Entries](#)
- F. [QSB Catalog Entry](#)

- G. Course Proposals
(NEW)
[ES - 232 - Applied Climatology](#)
- H. Petitions for Graduate Students to Teach an Upper Division Courses
[Palefsky, Gina ANTH 149 202230](#)
[Gomez, Laura CRES-HIST 123 202220](#)

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Conflict Resolution Guidelines (1:55-2:00)—Chair Hestir

- A. [Faculty/Graduate Student Conflict Management](#)
- B. [Flowchart](#)

Requested action: GC to endorse the documents.

Chair Hestir reminded members that the Faculty/Graduate Student Conflict Management document and accompanying flowchart are not policy, but rather a set of guidelines for approaching conflict situations. Chair Hestir invited voting members to endorse the additional revisions.

A student representative noted that some students, especially international students, are hesitant to bring forth any sort of conflict resolution for fear of being fired or deported. It was suggested that further revisions be made to the document to include a pathway for students to share their concerns without the involvement of advisors. Chair Hestir reassured the student representative that there are graduate academic counselors who can provide guidance to students who are not comfortable coming forward or if the situation becomes severe. The involvement of graduate academic counselors has been included in the updated flowchart. VPDGE Kello explained that a promise cannot be made to students regarding their employment; however, students who report a conflict will remain confidential.

Action: GC endorsed the revised Faculty/Graduate Student Conflict Management document and flowchart. GC Analyst will transmit GC's endorsement to EVC/Provost Camfield and cc: VPDGE Kello (completed 6/3).

V. Systemwide Review Items (2:00-2:05)—Chair Hestir

- A. [Presidential Policy on Affiliations with Certain Healthcare Organizations](#)
All Senate Committees and School Executive Committees were invited to review the policy on March 23, 2022.

Requested Action: Members to discuss the proposal and lead reviewer's comments.

Deadline: April 29, 2022

Lead reviewer Hratchian explained that the cover letter sent to university stakeholders by UC Health Executive Vice President, Carrie Byington, describes the purpose and motivation of the interim policy being considered for permanent adoption as follows:

The University's medical centers and health professional schools regularly enter into affiliations with other health care organizations to improve quality and access for the people of the State of California, particularly those in medically underserved communities, and to support the University's education and research mission. Some of those organizations have instituted policy-based restrictions on care that restrict doctors and other health professionals from providing evidence-based prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. For example, some of these organizations prohibit elective abortion or gender reassignment procedures. The purpose of the Presidential Policy is to establish standards for affiliation with such

organizations that will protect and advance the University's values, as well as its commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and accountability, in accordance with Regents Policy 4405.

The interim policy clearly articulates UC's desired goal that all health care organizations participating in affiliate relationships with the University provide care to patients and a learning environment for health trainees that supports the University's values. However, it is not clear how the decision-making process will balance the components of sub-subsection III.B.3. GC wondered if the Mercy UC Davis Cancer Center in Merced is in jeopardy. Furthermore, Dignity Health will not provide services explicitly listed in III.B.3.b. GC wondered if there is an expectation that such services should be provided in the care of cancer patients, or if the nature of cancer care and the lack of alternative health partners in Merced is a consideration that provides for III.B.3.c to control over III.B.3.b.

GC recommended providing clarity on the application of considerations enumerated in III.B, especially III.B.3, including guidance for resolving circumstances where potential affiliations may conform with some elements of III.B provisions but not all; and an appendix listing current affiliations that UC Health expects to come into question as a result of the interim policy, so that stakeholders may properly assess the likely outcome of full policy implementation.

Action: GC Analyst will draft a memo with GC's comments. Voting members will be invited to review the draft memo prior to transmittal to the Senate Chair (completed 4/29).

VI. Graduate Division Updates (2:05-2:15)—*Interim VPDGE Chris Kello*

A. Updates to the Handbook

1. Definition of full-time enrollment

There has been some confusion regarding what constitutes full-time. Some documents state that full-time is 8 units while others state 12 units. VPDGE Kello recommended revising all documents to conclude that 12 units constitute full-time enrollment.

2. In-person qualifying exams and defenses

Prior to the pandemic, qualifying exams and defenses were administered in-person. During the pandemic, it is important to clearly state whether qualifying exams and defenses are to be administered in person or virtually. Students usually take their qualifying exam and defense in-person; however, during the pandemic, many have been able to take them remotely by exception. VPDGE Kello recommended formulating a set of rules for the Fall. If a faculty member is in residence, their qualifying exam and defense should be completed in-person. If a faculty member is not in residence, then the Chair must approve a remote accommodation, and Dean's approval is not required.

Action: Suggested edits to the handbook are available [here](#). Members are to provide any comments by Thursday, April 28, 2022. Members will vote on the suggested edits at the May 9, 2022 GC meeting.

B. Admissions

VPDGE Kello reported that there are 145 admits for PhDs, and there has been a large decrease in Master's enrollment numbers. Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (EECS) is UC Merced's largest Master's program, and unfortunately, they did not admit any students this year.

C. Mentorship Workshop debrief

Vice Chair Ha provided a debrief on the Mentorship Training Workshop during her report earlier in today's meeting (item II).

VII. New Business? (2:15-2:20)

No new business was discussed.

VIII. Informational Items

- A. [Summer Enrollment - April 10, 2022](#)
- B. [Summer 2022 Enrollment - April 18 2022](#)
- C. [Fall 2022 Undergraduate New Student Projections by Major](#)

IX. Executive Session: Mechanical Engineering P&Ps and Quantitative & Systems Biology P&Ps – (2:20-3:00)

Executive Session Agenda and materials were provided to the prospective attendees.