

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**May 3, 2016****1:30-3:00 PM****KL 362****Documents available at: [UCM Box](#)**

Pursuant to call, the Graduate Council met at 1:30pm on May 3, 2016 in room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Michael N Dawson presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Dawson updated GC members on the following:

- a. May 2 Division Council meeting
 - i. GC indicated to Interdisciplinary Humanities (IH) that GC would be happy to receive requests for the Head Librarian (Haipeng Li) and two additional Library staff members (Donald Barclay and Emily Lin) to apply to teach in IH. Chair Dawson received no questions, but did provide the justification for the GC memo, including that this decision would be made annually, and subject to change by GC if the circumstances change. DivCo was welcomed to notify GC of any future concerns on this topic.
- b. April 26 Graduate Group Chair's meeting
 - i. At the beginning of the semester, GC discussed how to better interface with constituents served by the committee. VPDGE Zatz suggested that the GC Chair attend the monthly Grad Group Chair meetings. Chair Dawson found it useful and will continue attending these meetings.
- c. CRF software solutions
 - i. A committee is being formed to review software options over the summer, with recommendations being offered to the new GC in Fall 2016.

II. Consent Calendar

ACTION: May 3 meeting agenda was approved as presented. Minutes from the April 19th meeting will be added to consent calendar for the May 17 GC meeting, due to revisions.

III. Review update: Graduate Group Policies & Procedures, Graduate Advisors' Handbook

Primary and secondary reviewers for the GG P&P files have been assigned. Primary reviewers will have their assignments complete by noon on May 12, and will then email the secondary reviewers the files and their comments.

Secondary reviewers will send their assignments to GC Analyst by May 16. Select reviewers, as identified in the reviewer schedule, are expected to report on their assignments at the May 17 GC meeting.

ACTION: GC Analyst will email assigned files, and the full reviewer schedule, to the Primary reviewers this week. Primary reviewers will send assignments with tracked changes to secondary reviewers. Secondary reviewers will return to GC Analyst by May 16.

IV. Membership in Graduate Programs

No current policy for UC Merced regarding roles of affiliate members. This topic defines what Graduate Groups may be able to do, particularly in reference to CCGA proposal reviews. UC Davis has an existing policy that may provide guidance for UC Merced.

A member brought up the issue of teaching responsibilities for affiliates and if affiliates are being required to contribute, if that role falls more toward a core faculty member rather than an affiliate.

Public Health has affiliates that take on the role of student supervision, but there is no teaching or service responsibility. Chair Dawson pointed out the issue of affiliate members who are not UC faculty, and what are their advisory (sole/primary) role.

Asked about GradDiv approval, Assoc. Dean Kello identified some affiliates are in place that did not go through a formal approval process.

Chair Dawson added that the responsibility for who can sit on a thesis committee was effectively attributed by earlier policy this year to Grad Groups that are well established and have a long history, and GradDiv would now need only to approve thesis committee members for groups that are new/forming/do not have a long history. GC can then consider deeper this matter about affiliates in Fall.

ACTION: This topic will be added as a GC agenda item for Fall 2016, using the UC Davis Graduate Council policy as a point of reference for discussion, along with questions and issues raised during this meeting.

V. Graduate Professional Development Course

Assoc. Dean Kello sent an email to the GG Chairs that summarized the April 19 GC discussion about the Professional Development Course proposal, and the topic was added as an agenda item to the April 26 GG Chairs meeting. The nuances of the original GC discussion, which included GradDiv offering a course with minimal effort on GGs was not conveyed. A 9-0 vote (one abstention) was made in favor of GC reconsidering the original request by GradDiv to offer a separate course unaffiliated with other units or programs. The issue would be brought back to GC for discussion and reconsideration.

Assoc. Dean Kello wanted to note that the issue raised by GC regarding individual GG PLOs would not need to be addressed.

A member asked about curriculum coming from a non-academic unit, and what was the reaction from the grad directors. WHAT WAS THE RESPONSE? Chair Dawson reiterated that the idea of a professional development course coordinated across campus was supported, but that by current rules it is not possible by GradDiv to offer it. Other campuses may be doing this, which is up to their GCs. At UCM GradDiv does not have the authorization to offer courses. Assoc. Dean Kello proposed that GradDiv is asking GC for that authorization under “shared governance”. A member challenged the validity of that argument. The Chair restated that GradDiv is an administrative unit, and the appointments within GradDiv of VPDGE and Assoc. Dean are administrative appointments rather than faculty appointments. Moreover, the GradDiv request must be considered in the broader context of past and future requests from non-academic units to offer graduate courses, GC to take serious consideration of when and how these requests would be authorized.

A member shared sympathy with the concerns raised by the GG Chairs, and wanted to note whether or not they were aware of GCs concerns, as it seems more that they are concerned about the precedent moving forward and less about the course itself. Assoc. Dean Kello is willing to go another round with GG Chairs, having not originally expected a vote or counter-argument from them. They were only bringing the issue of GC wanting to go forward as requested.

Chair Dawson stated that the discussion at the meeting did not include the benefits, including encouraging GGs to adopt professional development as an integrated series of graduated courses, and suggested that, in this instance, GC deal directly to GradDiv and GG Chairs via memo to avoid further miscommunication with the GG Chairs.

Assoc. Dean Kello asked about how the course offering would work logistically, and how would it be taught (through CIS and have it cross-listed, for example)? Engineering would run a course using the suggested model, drawing from other campus resources, for senior undergraduates. The question is how the course would work with different cross-listings, with it being logistically simpler if it was through one unit, instead of Engineering it would be GradDiv.

ACTION: Chair and Vice Chair will draft a memo to GradDiv and GG Chairs.

VI. Catalog Copy – amendments

OPRAAS has identified five Graduate Groups having discrepancies in their PLOs published in the Catalog with what is published on the GG websites. Four out of the five had responded to the request for verification, and the GC approved them as received.

ACTION: Upon receipt of final GG verification (Sociology), PLO will be approved by email.

VII. Outstanding Teaching Award

Rankings were reviewed and endorsed. A tie was identified, and GC requested that GradDiv (1) allow for the school to split the award and name the two tied students as winners, as the honor of winning the award would be more valuable on a C.V. than the monetary award, or (2) as per the PDY fellowship, find additional funds to cover one additional award.

Members discussed again a new award that would support a well-rounded graduate student, particularly one who ranks highly across both OTA and PYD/Fletcher Jones award nominations. The prospect of naming the award in honor of Professor William Shadish was discussed as a possibility.

ACTION: GC Analyst will forward the rankings, and the question about the split-award / duplicate award, to GradDiv. Chair will request Vice Chair to draft a memo about introducing a new award, and bring the question to CoC about naming an award after Professor Shadish.

VIII. Other Business

IX. Consultation with VPDGE Zatz (provided by Associate Dean Chris Kello)

- a. Bootcamp is coming up after commencement.
- b. GradSlam! was considered a big success.
- c. Graduate Student Services will begin merging with Graduate Division.
- d. Summer Bridge program will be piloted for a month prior to beginning of Fall 2016 semester, with an internal proposal for funding having been submitted. More than half of the Grad Groups are involved, with a combination of training between grad groups, labs, and advisors, and professional development through GradDiv.
- e. Python coding workshop was held and considered very popular. Expectation to do more of these types of workshops for general data analysis and make them as relevant to all the Grad Groups as possible.

X. Upcoming business

- a. Teaching as Scholarship including Guidelines for TA Supervision, complement to Graduate Handbook guidance on choosing grads for TAships
- b. Awards ‘white paper’
- c. PDSTs / SSPs
- d. Extension / CalTeach
- e. Review of graduate group bylaws

XI. Executive Session

Voting members only. No minutes taken.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:48pm.

Attest:

Michael N Dawson, GC Chair