

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)
September 8th, 2016
Documents available at: UCM Box “[GC AY 16-17](#)”

Pursuant to call, the Graduate Council met at 10:00 AM on September 8, 2016 in room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Ramesh Balasubramaniam presiding.

I. Chair’s Report – Ramesh Balasubramaniam

Chair Balasubramaniam welcomed members and made introductions. He discussed his expectations for GC being quick and efficient in performing business, utilizing email when possible and bringing larger discussion items to in-person meetings. He also spoke about Faculty self-governance and his hope for GC to be flexible in working with requests that are presented to GC.

Chair Balasubramaniam discussed the status of pending CCGA/IIGP proposals:

- a. Public Health – Under review.
- b. Economics – Being reviewed by WSCUC.
- c. MIST Master Program – Was reviewed extensively last year, but should be able to move quickly. Chair Balasubramaniam and VPDGE Zatz will meet and discuss the current status, in light of upcoming CCGA deadline.

II. Consent Calendar

- a. The September 8th, 2016 meeting agenda was approved as presented.

III. Committee and Subcommittee Memberships: Review & Selection

Chair Balasubramaniam described the break-down of Graduate Council subcommittees, and asked for volunteers to fill out the subcommittees associated with Graduate Council.

- a. Existing committee commitments
 - i. CCGA and DivCo representative (GC Chair)
 - ii. PROC representative (GC Vice Chair)
- b. Selection of CRF Subcommittee
 - i. Chair Balasubramaniam, Ming-Hsuan Yang, and Andy LiWang
- c. Selection of Awards Subcommittee
 - i. Nancy Burke
- d. Selection of Policy Review Subcommittee
 - i. Teamrat Ghezzehei, Hrant Hratchian
- e. GC Representative on [LASC](#)
 - i. Nancy Burke
- f. GC Representative on [WSCUC](#)
 - i. GC will wait until Committee on Committees (COC) identifies an additional member of GC, and that person will be placed in this role.

With regard to the number of fellowships growing, the work of the Awards Subcommittee will also grow. Chair Balasubramaniam, VPDGE Zatz, and Awards Sub Chair Burke will meet to develop a plan that would make the award handling process more efficient. A member suggested that the school’s Executive Committees could deal with some of the workload, and this will be considered in the plan. GC members will be asked to review and approve the plan once a draft is developed.

IV. AY 16-17 Academic Calendar

- a. The AY 16-17 Academic Calendar was approved as presented.

V. Consultation with VPDGE Zatz

- a. Admissions and enrollment: The number of SIRs has increased by 17% (154 SIRs to date). There are 518 graduate students, 140 of them are new to campus (there were 448 last year). Ongoing concerns regarding space on campus, and there not being enough faculty, continue to be discussed.
- b. Graduate Division initiatives for this year include the opening of a Graduate Resource Center and a new Peer Mentoring Program, where all new doctoral students are assigned a peer mentor. VPDGE Zatz will be meeting with all Grad Groups, and a faculty panel will further discuss this initiative.
- c. New institutional grants: Many new grants have been awarded to UC Merced. In the Summer, there will be programs focused on increasing the diversity in STEM fields.
- d. Professional Development Program is in operation; more information is available from the GradDiv website.
- e. There will be a meeting with Arthur Ellis, the new VP for Research and Graduate Studies at UCOP, on October 4th.
- f. There will be theatre troupe visiting in October, performing about mentoring and bias in faculty hiring. GC is invited.

VI. Upcoming Business**VII. Other Business****VIII. Executive Session**

The committee entered into Executive Session at 11:13 AM, no notes were recorded.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.

Attest:

Ramesh Balasubramaniam, Chair