

Graduate Council (GC)
Minutes of Meeting
October 26, 2015

Pursuant to call, the Graduate Council met at 1:30 pm on October 26, 2015 in Room 238 of the Student Services Building, Chair Michael N Dawson presiding.

I. Consent Calendar

ACTION: October 26, 2015 meeting agenda, October 14 draft meeting minutes, and the CRFs for ME 255, CHEM 250, and EECS 284 were approved as presented.

II. CRFs

- ES/QSB 256. GC received a very thoughtful response clarifying the place of this course within the curriculum and explaining the choice to move to a stand-alone graduate course that allows enrollment of undergraduate students at the discretion of the instructor and/or with prerequisites.

ACTION: GC to approve via email consent calendar.

- PH 201 – 208B and PH 241
All CRFs from PH require additional attention (including differentiation from undergraduate curricula, credit hour policy, place in the curriculum; specific recommendations for each will be communicated. The over-arching suggestion from GC is that, if such does not already exist, PH faculty may benefit from forming an educational policy type group that works with faculty to prepare CRFs that meet the available criteria for CRFs, syllabi, and graduate-level curricula.

ACTION: GC declined to approve and will reconsider revised versions in spring 2016. GC to send a memo to the Social Sciences graduate group chair.

- ES 227
Conjoined courses are being discouraged by GC due to concerns that they may weaken graduate education. The proposed revisions

resulted in a course that raised several serious questions: Is this graduate-level education? How can a single course fulfill GE, undergraduate, and graduate learning outcomes satisfactorily? Is the proposal to have graduates in a lab section taught by another graduate student (as such is prohibited by current policy)? Can graduate students who need to acquire this basic knowledge take the course for units but not graduate credit?

ACTION: GC declined to approve and will reconsider revised proposal in Spring 2016. GC to send a memo to the ES graduate group chair.

III. Project 2020 and Graduate Education

On October 2, GC sent a memo to the Senate Chair, CAPRA chair, and VC Feitelberg with a list of questions to consider about graduate education. The answers provided raised/left some concern and some questions were not addressed at all. GC members agreed that the council should follow up on several aspects (#s 1, 2, 3, 7), including for example graduate student office configurations, regular teaching space for advanced pedagogical methods, etc.

ACTION: AVC Rider and VC Feitelberg to be invited to a future GC meeting to continue these conversations.

IV. Composition of Master's Committees

Background: A graduate group's policies & procedures are consistent with the GPP in that a substitution of a Senate faculty member by a non-Senate member is allowable. The small difference is that the graduate groups' policies & procedures do not state that the substitution is dependent upon an exception granted by the VPDGE according to GC policy/delegation. Should GC amend our policy such that in applied fields graduate groups can routinely compose an MS committee of 2 Senate + 1 Senate/non-Senate members? Or should GC retain the requirement that an exception be required?

GC members noted that the ES policies and procedures and the Graduate Advisor's Handbook are in agreement, with one minor exception: the former

does not state that an exception is required, the latter does. GC discussed finding a way to lighten the reporting burden.

ACTION: Chair Dawson to correspond with Dean Zatz to develop a few suggestions to put before GC during November 18 meeting.

V. **Campus Review Items**

--Academic Degree Policy. The policy was proposed by the joint Senate-Administration Academic Degree Programs Working Group. This working group was established at the request of Provost/EVC Peterson.

Overall, GC approved of the policy with the following comments:

- Remove reference to School / College.
- Copyedit throughout.
- Add in comments for minors and GE, and for graduate designated emphases and concentrations.

ACTION: GC to send a memo to the Senate Chair with its comments.

--Revised Public Health Bylaw 55 Unit proposal

Public Health revised last year's proposal to establish a bylaw 55 unit based on Senate committee comments. GC members decided that the revised proposal does not intersect with graduate education and as such, the council has no comments.

ACTION: The Senate Chair will be informed that GC has no comments.

VI. **Consultation with VPDGE Zatz**

The VPDGE provided the following updates via email prior to this meeting, due to her absence:

(1) All of the UC Graduate Divisions are currently undergoing an audit by the state regarding funding for graduate recruitment during the period 2005-2015.

This is an extension of the enrollment audit that already took place with undergraduate enrollment. It is somewhat more limited in scope. Graduate Divisions have two weeks to respond.

(2) The new admissions system is live and we have also been conducting email blasts to prospective students and now to students with incomplete applications. Thanks to the faculty and graduate coordinators who have been involved in testing

(3) Please watch GEARS for our growing set of professional development forums and workshops. The most recent forums included Women and Technology, a New Faculty panel, and additional workshops on predoctoral fellowship funding. <http://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/gears>

(4) I have formed a Graduate Dean's Advisory Council on Diversity, with 11 graduate students serving on the council. Our first meeting will be at the end of this month.

VII. Executive Session

Voting members only. No minutes taken.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Attest:

Michael N. Dawson, GC Chair

Minutes drafted by the GC Chair