

Graduate Council (GC)
Minutes of Meeting
May 13, 2015

Pursuant to call, the Graduate Council met at 1:00 pm on May 13, 2015 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Kathleen Hull presiding.

I. Provost/EVC Peterson

Provost/EVC Peterson attended today's meeting at the invitation of the Council, to discuss the strategic academic focusing initiative (SAFI) in the context of graduate education. Prior to this meeting, a list of questions from GC was distributed to the Provost/EVC.

The Provost related his disappointment at the timing of the all-faculty survey conducted by CAPRA, as the campus dialogues are not yet concluded and he felt that the yes/no vote served to polarize the campus.

The Provost then addressed GC's list of questions. Foundational hires could be driven as much by undergraduate programs as graduate programs. He pointed out that a number of multi-disciplinary faculty have been planning on fitting into the various pillars and the Provost stated that he would like to see these self-assembled groups determine how to fit into bylaw-55 units and how to empanel search committees. The Provost also mentioned that if faculty do not agree with the allocation to pillars, he welcomes their input on how else to prioritize future hires.

A GC member inquired whether graduate students will be involved in the conversations about how SAFI and Project 2020 will contribute to graduate student success. The Provost replied that they will be involved and that the faculty also need to continue to be engaged in graduate student conversations. Graduate student space is critical, and while there are options being considered, the administration has no definitive plan on space as there are issues of pedagogy and privacy that must be addressed.

VPDGE Zatz mentioned that graduate students, via the GSA, have been involved in the meetings with the Project 2020 developers.

Another GC member pointed out that many faculty members are now wondering about the status of decanal support letters that were written as part of previous PhD program proposals: the letters contained plans for future FTE lines, but the Provost's hiring plan—specifically with the pillars—conflicts with these letters.

The Provost responded that the decanal letters are not contracts and that the campus needs to look at hiring in a holistic manner rather than solely specific programs. There are enrollment pressures all around campus. Furthermore, even if we had no pillars and planned to hire only into foundational areas as is traditional, the campus would still have to make priorities.

The GC chair stated that this year's Council was conservative in its approval of PhD program proposals for these reasons. She asked the Provost if there was specific data that the Council could provide. The Provost responded that the campus needs to more fully grasp the University's teaching mission and he would find the following helpful: who is teaching at the lower and upper division level, what graduate courses are being offered, how often are they being offered, what is the level of graduate student participation, and are there key aspects of the graduate curriculum that are not offered because the schools do not have the faculty or resources to execute them?

The Provost reiterated that he will continue to support the strong disciplinary and multi-disciplinary programs on this campus. In response to a GC member's concern about adequate staff support to help provide these data, Provost Peterson replied that he is already working with IRDS on workload analysis and has contracted with Academic Analytics. VPDGE Zatz stated that she is working with each of the graduate groups on these data and will ask them to review it. This will give us some baseline data on a number of different indicators.

II. Chair's Report

Chair Hull updated the GC members on the following:

- April 30 Division Council meeting.
 - Members of the administration attended to provide Project 2020 updates that were helpful to Division Council members. Faculty felt more assured about the future plans for space.

- May 6 CCGA meeting.
 - CCGA has completed its analysis and recommendations regarding the issues associated with self-supporting graduate professional degree programs (SSGPDPs). The recommendations will be distributed to campuses. Chair Hull indicated that the GC policy subcommittee will address how to integrate these recommendations into campus policies.
 - The UC Berkeley Graduate Student Happiness and Well Being report of 2014 was discussed by CCGA. It is critical to offer mental health services on each campus.

- April 23 Meeting of the Division
 - The Governor's staff was supposed to address graduate education but the Governor's focus at this time appears to be undergraduate education.
 - Systemwide chair Mary Gilly attended and provided systemwide updates such as the revisions to the policy on sexual violence and harassment. GC opined at the April 1 meeting and had planned to submit comments but these comments were never sent to systemwide.

III. Vice Chair's Report

- UGC/GC/PROC policy subcommittee. Prior to this meeting, a draft document was circulated among the committee and was included in this meeting's agenda packet. Vice Chair Dawson announced that the

subcommittee will be reconstituted next academic year in light of the new GC and UGC leadership.

ACTION: GC Chair Hull approved the draft document and next year's plans. An official email to Vice Chair Dawson and the GC membership will be transmitted.

IV. Consent Calendar

- Today's agenda
- April 1 and 29 meeting minutes
- Physics policies and procedures.

ACTION: All items were approved as presented.

V. Latest revisions to Draft Policy on Concentrations and Designated Emphases

Chair Hull reported that she had a productive meeting with Registrar Herbrand and work on this draft policy will continue.

VI. CCGA SSGPDP Memo

Chair Hull reiterated that she will represent GC on the SSP/PDST task force with VPDGE Zatz that will consider these recommendations.

VII. Campus Review Item

- UC Merced's Review under the WSCUC Standards

UC Merced initiated its efforts to re-affirm accreditation by WSCUC, which will conclude with an Accreditation Visit in spring 2018 and, in June 2018, the WSCUC Commission decision to re-affirm accreditation for a period of 6, 8 or 10 years. The first step in the Institutional Review Process for re-affirmation is to complete, as an institution, the *Review under the WSCUC Standards*. All

Senate standing committees are asked to review the draft of this this document.

GC members discussed the draft and noted the following: mentoring guidelines should be incorporated, the lack of adequate staff support and faculty input on staff effectiveness, incentives for faculty and whether that includes graduate chair compensation, and graduate student feedback.

ACTION: GC Chair will circulate a draft memo of Council's comments and requested edits and/or approval by tomorrow at 4:00 pm. The final memo will be transmitted to the Senate chair.

VIII. Consultation with VPDGE Zatz

Dean Zatz updated GC members on the following:

- The Grad Slam finals from UCOP were live streamed in the Grad Pad. The UC Merced contingent at Grad Slam finals included our finalist, his faculty advisor, the Provost, Vice Chancellor for Development, major donors, and members of the Board of Trustees.
- This campus is quite attentive to issues surrounding undocumented students and the undocumented student coordinators are drafting various suggestions.
- Graduate student applications for next year are at 596, which is almost an 18% increase from last year at this time. There are 279 total admits. Total SIRs are 142, which represents a 38% increase over last year but part of this number will experience melt. While these admissions numbers are a significant improvement upon last year, our anticipated enrollments for Fall 2015 remain, unfortunately, short of our projections
- Summary of exceptions. Dean Zatz asked GC to provide her with instructions on what the Council wants to see in her summary of exceptions for this academic year.

IX. Informational Item

Prior to this meeting, a memo was sent to GC confirming that Office of the Registrar staff adjusted the Banner minimum grade for prerequisite graduate courses to “B” to reflect the Regulations of the Merced Division.

GC members agreed that graduate groups should have discussions about this standard as several new faculty members came from non-UC institutions and may not be aware of this regulation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Attest:

Kathleen Hull, GC Chair

Minutes taken by: Simrin Takhar, Senate Analyst