

**Graduate Council (GC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 1, 2015**  
**1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

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**I. Chair's Report – Professor Kathleen Hull**

- DivCo (3/19)

The Senate Chair reported that Vice Chancellor for Research Sam Traina has received numerous faculty complaints about operations at the Sponsored Projects Office. The VCR expects some of the problems will be addressed after the new SPO director is hired (a search is currently underway) and new software systems are operational.

CAPRA reported that there are some concerns with faculty input on the 2020 Project, specifically with respect to the percent allocation of space to different uses (e.g., wet lab, dry lab, office, etc.). Although DivCo representatives provided faculty input to all design teams during campus visits, the underlying assumptions about space needs and the quantitative breakdown of space to be supplied in the initial RFP have never been presented to the faculty. DivCo will be sharing these concerns with the Provost/EVC.

- CRTE Program Review (3/30)

GC will need to follow and contribute to CRTE program review, especially regarding issues of graduate student co-curricular training and the need to avoid overlap with similar programs Dean Zatz anticipates offering in the future.

**II. Vice Chair's Report – Professor Michael Dawson**

- Campus Visit of WSCUC Staff Liaison to UC Merced (3/12)

Barbara Gross Davis met with various administrative and faculty groups. The intent is to set the scene for UC Merced's re-affirmation of accreditation. The local team will be headed by Prof. Nate Monroe. The campus self-study is due in the summer of 2017. One suggestion raised, with the prospect of core competencies for graduate education on the horizon, is that institutional outcomes for the degree embodied in Program Learning Outcomes might suffice, in which case PLOs take on added significance for illustrating engaged thoughtful faculty stewardship.

**III. Consent Calendar**

- The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

- Meeting minutes for February 25, 2015 and March 11, 2015 were approved as presented.

- Graduate group bylaws for Psychological Sciences were approved.

- Graduate group bylaws for Applied Mathematics have potential contradictory information that should be confirmed by the graduate group. Specifically, Article II.D stipulates that faculty activity is appraised every three years, while Article V notes that membership is reviewed every four years.

**Action:** Senate Analyst will send request to Applied Mathematics Chair to confirm if these two sections of the bylaws should be reconciled.

**IV. Campus Review Items**

**- Global Arts Studies Major**

GC is concerned that education within graduate programs with which GASP faculty who are affiliated with IH will suffer since the proposal does not indicate GASP faculty graduate teaching in the faculty rotation and implies that full participation in graduate teaching and mentoring must await additional faculty hires if the major is approved.

**Action:** GC Chair will prepare and send comment memo to Senate Chair before April 6 deadline.

**- Medical Education Task Force**

**Action:** Senate Analyst will notify Senate Chair that Changqing Li will represent GC on this task force.

**Action:** Senate Analyst will notify Senate Chair of this approval.

**- Joint Senate-Administration Academic Degree Programs Working Group**

**Action:** Senate Analyst will notify Senate Chair that GC Chair Hull will represent GC in this working group.

**V. Systemwide Review Items****- Revised Presidential Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence**

GC discussed the ambiguity of the policy with respect to consensual relationships between graduate students and undergraduate students, especially since the status of graduate student may vary between “employee” (e.g., TA) and student (e.g., not a TA) from one semester to the next..

**Action:** Chair will prepare and send comment memo to Senate Chair before April 10 deadline for comment.

**- Revisions to Senate Bylaw 128.D.2**

**Action:** Senate Analyst will inform Senate Chair by April 15 deadline that GC declines to opine on this issue.

**- Revisions to Senate Bylaw 182**

**Action:** Senate Analyst will inform Senate Chair by May 5 deadline that GC declines to opine on this issue.

**VI. Graduate Group Policy Review Items****- Graduate Group Concentrations and Designated Emphases**

The policy subcommittee presented a stream-lined revision to the draft policy and proposed forms for discussion. The membership agreed that the draft policy was sufficient to move forward with a meeting with the Registrar to confirm the implementation is possible and get feedback on the draft policy and forms.

**Action:** Policy subcommittee will meet with Registrar to discuss draft policy and implementation forms.

**- Course Request Form and Policy**

The policy subcommittee presented proposed changes based on their discussion and feedback from ALO Martin. Reference to “WASC compliant” syllabi has been dropped, and the new guidance gives more authority to the graduate assessment coordinator regarding syllabus

“compliance.” The revisions stress that the purpose of the course schedule is to justify credit hours, while allowing flexibility (i.e., not necessary to list specific dates/readings). GC approved the changes.

**Action:** Senate Analyst will prepare cover memo and send revised guidance to Graduate Group Chairs.

#### **VII. Discussion Item: Proposed Parking Permit Renewal Policy**

Student representative Brandon Stark shared student concerns about parking priority recommendations FDWAF made to TAPS that might undermine graduate student access to preferred parking or campus parking in general. Stark noted that collective bargaining agreements guarantee TAs equal rights as employees of like employment (e.g., part-time employees), so FDWAF recommendations with respect to graduate student parking may conflict with such agreements. Stark suggested that parking issues might be eased if transportation was viewed as a package (i.e., also consider Catracks schedules/routes, etc.), and he noted that graduate students can't buy parking permits online (i.e., they must stand in line at TAPs to get a permit), which is burdensome. GC members agreed that TAPS should be encouraged to allow online access to parking permit renewal/purchase for graduate students, and that TAPS should consider a weighted approach to parking allocation that would give graduate students better standing in acquiring parking permits.

**Action:** None. GC should be prepared to offer comment on these issues should input be sought from DivCo.

#### **VIII. Consultation with VPGDE Marjorie Zatz**

- Graduate admission data to date: 589 applications, 244 admitted, 71 SIR
- Fellowship offers have gone out, encompassing 2-3 times that money actually available, since some prospective students will decline. Grad Division is starting to hear from awardees, and is sending out reminders to others. The proposal for small grants is being developed
- Dissertation Bootcamp will take place in June. The Dean would like to hire editors to work with students during bootcamp.
- IT stuff moving along. The Dean suggested that perhaps the GC awards subcommittee could participate in testing some aspects of the system. This work should be completed over the summer, and fully online applications will be available for next year.

#### **IX. Executive Session**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Attest:

Kathleen Hull, Chair

Minutes Prepared by:

Kathleen Hull, Chair