

Graduate Council (GC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 28, 2015
1:00-2:30PM

I. Chair's Report – Professor Kathleen Hull

- CCGA (1/7)

Chair Hull reported on the following items discussed at CCGA:

- Self-Supporting Programs: CCGA continued its discussion regarding the compellingness of SSPs. The discussion focused on how SSPs should generate money that helps support students in their program and other programs within their campus. There was also some discussion of having shorter review cycles for professional programs.
- Report from the Academic Senate Leadership: Los Alamos Lab received a major fine and will not be able to support any post-doctoral and graduate students in the near future.
- Doctoral Student Support Committee: The Regents are requesting an actual budget request regarding the amount needed to bridge the gap for graduate student support. The Academic Senate will be working with UCOP on a proposal that will be presented to the Regents in March.
- Sociology CCGA Proposal Update: The lead reviewer is still trying to find external reviewers.

- DivCo (1/21)

DivCo discussed the revisions to the membership of the Medical Education Task Force. Last year, GC made a recommendation to not have majority its membership be from HSRI. However, DivCo ruled that having a majority of its membership be from HSRI would not be a problem since the taskforce is only charged with creating a viability study. DivCo also discussed the Committee on Research analysis on the internal faculty grant funding on campus and recognized that funding has been flat despite the increase in faculty hires.

II. Vice Chair's Report- Professor Mike Dawson

- PROC (1/26)- Professor Mike Dawson

Vice Chair Dawson reported that PROC discussed the current administrative review schedule and will be asking the Vice Chancellors to revise as needed. PROC Subcommittee on Policy will be meeting in February and the goal is to: (1) develop principles for program review; and (2) make recommendations for revisions to the program review policies.

III. Consent Calendar

- The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

IV. PROC Memo- Advanced Notification of Program Review

The Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC) asked UGC/ GC to contact programs scheduled for review in AY 2016-2017 to request confirmation of the scheduled review date. GC discussed the request to provide a two-year advanced notification to graduate programs scheduled to undergo program review. Members agreed that advanced notification of program review would prepare programs to successfully complete the review on schedule.

Furthermore, in discussing PROC's request, the Council revised the current graduate program review cycle to reflect the correct date of establishment of graduate programs (i.e., formal approval from CCGA, UCOP and WSCUC).

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the modified version of the graduate program review cycle.

Action: GC will send a response to PROC and include the revised graduate program review cycle.

V. Campus Review Items

- Policy for review of Organized Research Units (ORUs)

Last year, the Senate approved a set of policies for the establishment and review of research units. The administration drafted a more detailed five-year review process for ORUs that builds on the list of items identified by the Committee on Research.

GC reviewed the draft policy and had the following comments and concerns:

- Members were concerned that the issue of long-term sustainability and, especially financial viability, were not adequately addressed in the review requirements. Members expressed a desire for transparency with respect to internal and external funding, and that sustainability be explicitly identified as a review criterion.
- The draft policy is too vague with respect to the constitution of the review committee (e.g., number of [faculty] members, criteria for selection, etc.).
- A recommendation was to include some stipulations about the inclusion of timelines, and perhaps milestones and off-year review of progress, in review recommendations. Likewise, there should be some guidance on where and how ORUs should report progress on recommendations (e.g., Annual Reports). Possible language on tying funding to timely and adequate response to recommendations may be found in Senate policies for academic review.
- A suggestion was made that there be language added regarding the significance of ORU Annual Reports to both the review process and ORU follow-up on review recommendations (e.g., copies of Annual Reports should be included as appendices to the self-study, Annual Reports as one venue in which to document progress on review recommendations as per Point #15).
- Revisions should correct language to conform to UC Merced structures (e.g., revise references to "departments" and "department chairs") and correctly format the Self-Assessment section (i.e., pull Administration/Governance, Problems/Needs, and Justification for Continuance out as separate bullets not subsumed under Evidence of Accomplishments).

Action: GC will provide comments to Senate Chair Sun by January 30.

- Establishment of Centers at UC Merced

GC discussed the draft policy for establishment of centers at UC Merced drafted by the administration that defines centers as unit designed to further research in a specific field or provides research facilities for other departments or units.

Members raised the following issues and points for consideration:

- GC recommends greater clarity with respect to the sequence, timing, and permissions necessary for faculty to initiate the process of establishing a Center. GC's primary concerns are: (1) that faculty are given guidance regarding at what stage it is appropriate to pursue external funding for a Center; and (2) if and how such efforts should be coordinated with the Sponsored Projects Office (SPO) and/or Office of Development by either the faculty or Dean.
- GC members expressed concern that the stipulation (second bullet point under guiding principles) that Centers "*must* contribute to the...education of graduate and undergraduate students" [emphasis added] was too restrictive, and that "may" or "should" might be better alternatives in place of "must."
- While GC understands the need for clarity, branding, and efficient use of resources, GC members expressed concern about the stipulation (third bullet point under guiding principles) that Centers "not duplicate those of an existing Unit or Center." Members believe that such language might discourage faculty from pursuing some opportunities, might be difficult to define in practice (i.e., how coarsely or finely will such distinctions be made), and/or be used by existing Units or Centers to block or subsume potential Centers under their purview.

Action: GC will provide comments to Senate Chair Sun by January 30.

- **Campus Climate Action Plan**

The Chancellor's Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture, and Inclusion (CCCI) drafted a climate action plan to address key finding from the [Campus Climate Project Final Report](#).

GC discussed the draft plan and had the following comments/concerns:

- The action plan would benefit from integration with other current practices on campus such as periodic administrative and academic program review so that current campus tools are leveraged to achieve the stipulated campus goals.
- Members expressed a desire for a campus diversity plan that explicitly defines goals and strategies for achieving an inclusive and diverse campus community and criteria by which progress can be measured. Among other things, such a plan would help structure data collection efforts across campus.
- The draft action plan would benefit from greater clarity with respect graduate students, particularly international graduate students, who face unique challenges on campus.
- Members were concerned about the reliance on subjective data and criteria, and believe that objective measures be developed and incorporated into the plan.

Action: Review and provide comments to Senate Chair Sun by February 4.

VI. Review of Graduate Group Bylaws

- Mechanical Engineering is revising their current graduate group bylaws; all other approved graduate programs/ IIGP emphasis have submitted their documents for GC's review and request for revisions were sent to graduate groups on 12/23. The revised Physics Graduate

Group Bylaws have been submitted. GC had requested a brief statement on the discipline of the program and additional information for the committees of the graduate group.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the revised Physics Graduate Group Bylaws.

Action: GC will send a notification to the Physics graduate group faculty.

VII. New/ Revised Graduate Division Fellowships and Award

The Graduate Division received new funding to support graduate students at UC Merced. GC was asked to review the proposed guidelines and provide comments. Most of the fellowships are from endowments and once approved, the guidelines will roll over unless a change is requested by the donor.

Graduate Council reviewed and endorsed the following proposed fellowship guidelines:

- AY 2014-2015 Outstanding Teaching Award
- AY 2014-2015 New- Rose R. Ruiz Fellowship
- AY 2015-2016 New- Dan David Fellowship
- AY 2015-2016 New- Earle C. Anthony Fellowship
- AY 2015-2016 New- Health Sciences Fellowship
- AY 2015-2016 Revised- John and Victoria Elia Fellowship
- AY 2015-2016 New- Rose R. Ruiz Fellowship
- AY 2015-2016 New- Renewable Energy Fellowship
- AY 2015-2016 New- Fred and Mitzie Ruiz Fellowship
- AY 2016-2017 New- Fields Family Fellowship
- AY 2016-20017 New- HotChalk Fellowship

Action: GC will notify the Graduate Division.

VIII. Consultation with VPDGE Zatz

- Professional Development Programming
- Graduate Admissions Update
- Graduate Enrollment Management
- Graduate Online Forms

IX. Executive Session- GC Members Only

No minutes were recorded for this portion of the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Attest:

Kathleen Hull, Chair

Minutes Prepared by:

Mayra Chavez-Franco, Senate Analyst