GRADUATE COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
AY 2021-2022

During the academic year 2021-2022, the Graduate Council (GC) met sixteen times via zoom and conducted some business via email with respect to its duties as outlined in UCM Senate Bylaw II.IV.3.B. Over the course of the year, guest attendees included:

- Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Personnel, Kelly Anders
- Medical Education Director, Thelma Hurd
- Members of the Gallo School Planning Team: Paul Maglio, Director and Alvin Cha, Assistant Director, Division of Management and Information; Professor Jessica Trounstine; and Ehsan Choudhry, Faculty Liaison
- Senior Associate Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education and Director of Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning (CETL), James Zimmerman; and Associate Director of Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning (CETL), Jackie Shay
- Library and Scholarly Communications Chair, Maria DePrano
- Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Charles Nies
- Director of University Extension and Summer Session, Tammy Johnson; and Director of Extension Educational Programs, Mari Harris
- Director of Financial Services, Graduate Division, Eric Cannon
- Director of Admissions & Academic Services, Tsu Ya
- Graduate Academic Counselor, Maria Nishanian
- Associate Registrar, Josh Reinhold
- Graduate Student, Tyrome Sweet

University Registrar Erin Webb and Library representative Jerrold Shiroma participated in meetings as consultants to the committee. A summary of Graduate Council's business for the year follows.

GC ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

GC operated with three standing subcommittees that met primarily via email throughout the year. The CRF Subcommittee reviewed all requests for new graduate courses and modifications to existing courses, with its recommendations presented to the Council as a whole. The CRF Subcommittee also made suggestions for further improvements in the course review process through Curriculog (Online Course Proposal Review Policy).

Likewise, the Policy Subcommittee made recommendations to the Council as a whole regarding all graduate-related policies, including Graduate Group Policies and Procedures, Graduate Group Bylaws, and Graduate Group catalog entries.

The Fellowship Subcommittee led GC's oversight of graduate fellowships and awards. The Subcommittee made recommendations to the Graduate Division on consolidation of smaller fellowships, and suggested modifications to the review process aimed at ensuring consistency of the reviews across applications.

Subcommittee memberships were as follows:

CRF Subcommittee: Sandie Ha (SSHA), chair; Fred Wolf (SNS); Kara McCloskey (SoE)

Policy Subcommittee: Changqing Li (SNS), Hrant Hratchian (SNS), Boaz Ilan (SNS; Fall 2021), Karl Ryavec (SSHA)

Fellowship Subcommittee: Boaz Ilan (chair, Fall 2021), David Strubbe (chair; Spring 2022), Nigel Hatton (SSHA), Changqing Li (SoE)

An ad-hoc subcommittee was formed for the review of nominations for the Distinguished Graduate Teaching/Mentorship Award. The names of the Awards recipients are available here: https://senate.ucmerced.edu/senate_awards.

CAMPUS AND SYSTEM REVIEW ITEMS
GC offered comments or otherwise took action on the following review items.

- Proposed Revision to Senate Regulation 478 (IGETC) (10/7)*
- Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices (10/22)*
- Proposed Revisions to APM-759, Leaves of Absence/Other Leaves Without Pay (11/17)*
- Proposed Revisions to APM Sections 025 And 671 (12/3)*
- Proposed Presidential Policy on Abusive Conduct/Bullying in The Workplace (12/7)*
- UCAF Recommendations for Department Political Statements (1/14)*
- Community and Labor Center (CLC) Organized Research Unit (ORU) Proposal (2/3)
- Electrical Engineering Program Proposal (2/18)
- Presidential Policy on Affiliations with Certain Healthcare Organizations (4/29)*
- Revised Ernest & Julio Gallo School of Management Pre-Proposal (5/2)
- Honors Program Proposal (5/6)
- Negotiated Salary Trial Program (5/27)*
- Proposed Revisions to APM-715 and APM-760 (6/3)*
- Greenhouse Core Facility (6/10)

*Systemwide review items

Other
- Collaborated with UGC and consulted Graduate and Undergraduate Deans on campus's safe return to in-person instruction, and on planning spring instruction delivery. Regular meetings with VPDUE Frey and Interim VPDGE Kello once to twice a week led to several important policy initiatives, including re-examination of the course proposal process for courses with online components, and of the definition of instructional modalities.
- Consulted with the APO to clarify the responsibilities of department chairs in mentoring and supervising graduate student instructors and postdoctoral scholars.
- Offered comments on the School of Engineering's emergency request for remote instruction (10/13)
- Transmitted a memo to SSHA Dean Gilger regarding requests for remote instruction (11/19)
- Endorsed the proposal submitted by the Environmental Systems Graduate Group (ES) to create five new Concentrations (12/16)
- Recommended revisions to the Graduate Student Instructor Petition Approval Process (1/24)
- Recommended revisions to the Senate Bylaws Part II Title II Section 3.B.2.B regarding nomination of student representatives to the Senate committees (1/24)
- In collaboration with UGC, endorsed revisions to the Supplemental Questionnaire, Course Modification Guide, and Course Modification Approval Rubric (2/14)
- Reviewed and offered comments on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) (4/11)
- Reviewed and offered comments on Senate Regulations 520 and 454 (4/11)
- Transmitted a memo to Senate Chair Westerling requesting that the UCM Senate committees' terms of service be changed from beginning the first day of the Fall semester to beginning on September 1 and concluding on August 31 (4/18)
- Endorsed revisions to the Faculty-Graduate Student Conflict Resolution Infrastructure (4/25)
- Endorsed revisions to the Graduate Policies and Procedures Handbook (5/9)
- Endorsed the Graduate Students' Rights and Responsibilities (GSRR) document presented by the Graduate Student Association (GSA) (5/31)
- In collaboration with UGC, endorsed revisions to the Graduate Course Approval and CRF Process (6/8)
- Endorsed the substantive revisions to the AY 22-23 graduate group Catalog entries.

GRADUATE COURSE REQUESTS
- GC approved 29 requests for new courses or revisions to existing courses in Curriculog.
- GC approved a request from Extension to offer three courses in hyflex modality.

GRADUATE STUDENT APPOINTMENTS AS INSTRUCTOR FOR UPPER DIVISION COURSES
GC considered, and approved jointly with UGC, 8 requests to appoint graduate students as instructors for upper division courses. Effective February 18, 2022, requests to appoint graduate students as instructors for upper division courses no longer require UGC's approval. GC approved a total of 24 petitions, as well as requests for 6 reappointments.

GRADUATE GROUP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND BYLAWS
GC approved, effective Fall 2022, revisions to the Policies and Procedures of the following program:
- Cognitive & Information Systems (CIS)
- Economics (Econ)
- Environmental Systems (ES)
- Bioengineering (BioE)
- Chemistry & Biochemistry (CBC)
- Mechanical Engineering (ME)
- Management of Innovation, Sustainability and Technology (MIST)
- Physics
- Quantitative & Systems Biology (QSB)

GC approved, effective May 5, 2022, the revisions to the Bylaws of the following program:
- Quantitative & Systems Biology

Respectfully submitted,

GC Members
Erin Hestir, Chair (SoE), CCGA Representative, PROC Representative (Spring 2022)
Sandie Ha, Vice Chair (SSHA), Proc Representative (Fall 2021)
Nigel Hatton (SSHA)
Hrant Hratchian (SNS)
Boaz Ilan (Fall 2021) (SNS)
Changqing Li (SoE)
Kara McCloskey (SoE)
Karl Ryavec (SSHA)
David Strubbe (SNS)
Frederick Wolf (SNS)

Ex-Officio
Chris Kello, Interim Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education

Student Representative
Mikahl Banwarth-Kuhn, Postdoctoral Scholar Representative
Edgar Perez-Lopez, Executive Officer, Graduate Student Association

Senate Staff
Melanie Snyder, Senate Senior Analyst
Sang Lee, Senate Analyst