

**Graduate Council
Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2025**

Minutes

Graduate Council approved the minutes from the September 25, 2025 meeting as written.

Chair's Announcements

Chair Santhakumar reported that she attended the Chancellor's Leadership Retreat in which undergraduate education was the focus; graduate education will be the topic at a future retreat. Chair Santhakumar is still working to get a meeting with Graduate Council on the Chancellor's calendar. Chair Santhakumar has learned that Chancellor Hu is committed to budget transparency, the Chair of the Committee on Planning & Budget will now attend all budget meetings which did not occur previously. Chair Santhakumar and Vice Chair Park accepted an invitation to attend the Committee on Planning & Budget meeting next week to discuss graduate education.

CCGA Representative Announcements

Vice Chair and CCGA Representative Park reported that at the last CCGA meeting, the changes to visas (duration of status) were discussed and was concerning. CCGA responded to the interim UCAD report which will reflect the lack of attention to graduate student issues. UAW negotiations are ongoing with parallel arbitration about graduate students during rotations and fellowships. CCGA has decided to revisit the BS+MS course double-counting issue and may start allowing two graduate courses to count for the undergraduate degree for new programs only. A subgroup was formed to investigate double-counting and Vice Chair Park volunteered to serve on it. Other CCGA representatives were surprised to hear that diversity was being removed from admissions rubrics. Graduate Council had a brief discussion with VPDGS Kos and Graduate Division Associate Deans about the need to remove certain language from the graduate admissions rubrics and how UCR differs from other UCs when it comes to admissions rubrics. CCGA will be creating another subcommittee to poll campus Graduate Councils for the terminology they use as the equivalents for "academic notice" for graduate students, as SR 900 and SR 902 define these for undergraduates.

GSA Representative Announcements

GSA Representative Steinhauser reported that she met with the new UCR Chancellor and UCR leadership to share GSA's goals. GSA is also reaching out to students to be sure they are using resources that are available to them. GSA is building community within graduate student life.

VPDGS Announcements

VPDGS Kos reported that she attended college orientations, and the new graduate student orientation is online. VPDGS Kos indicated that most graduate programs are using the annual mentoring and evaluation form and not one student was marked "unsatisfactory". VPDGS Kos discussed that this kind of feedback must be provided to students if their performance is not satisfactory. Changing the language on the form was discussed, and it was agreed that it can be modified in the future to not make it sound so punitive for a student. Members of the Council also suggest adding a third box as an option to check for students whose performance is not satisfactory but also not unsatisfactory. VPDGS Kos reported that Graduate Division received an HSRU grant to provide workshops.

Courses & Programs Subcommittee

- A. MBA Program Update – *approved*.
- B. MS Business Analytics -- *approved*.
- C. MPAc Program Update -- *approved*.
- D. Psychology -- *approved*.

[Systemwide Review] Proposal: Proposed Revisions to APM - 015/016 and Disciplinary Sanction Guidelines for Misconduct Related to Expressive Activity and Guidelines re Good Cause Extension Factors

Graduate Council reviewed the Proposed Revisions to APM - 015/016 and Disciplinary Sanction Guidelines for Misconduct Related to Expressive Activity and Guidelines re Good Cause Extension Factors and was concerned about the move toward centralizing faculty discipline as it seems to erode the Senate's advisory processes and capacity. Council members felt that the timelines seemed reasonable but were confused by the inconsistency between calendar days and business days, which should be made consistent throughout the proposal. Council members firmly believe that if a hearing panel is not formed within 14 days it should be made mandatory for systemwide to consult with the campus Privilege & Tenure Committee before taking over. Overall, the committee expressed serious concerns regarding a “chilling effect” on free-speech that the revisions and new guidelines pose for our faculty and students. Particular concerns were raised regarding the expansive list of possible violations in Attachment A: “Faculty Respondent Disciplinary Sanction Guidelines for Misconduct Related to Expressive Activity”.

[Campus Review] (Regulation Change) 3rd Round - UCR Regulation 1 – Grading System

Graduate Council discussed the proposed revisions to Regulation 1 and voted in favor of approving the proposal.

[Systemwide Review] (Interim Policy) Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies

Graduate Council reviewed the Presidential Interim Policy for UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies and had no comments. The Council was supportive of the proposal.

[Campus Review] (Proposed Degree Program) (2nd Round) Bachelor of Science + Master of Science in Mathematics (Applied) Five Year (4+1) Combined-Degree Program

Graduate Council reviewed and approved the proposal for a BS+MS Combined Degree Program in Mathematics.

[Campus Review] Proposal: Transfer of CNAS Microbiology Undergraduate Program to the CNAS Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology

Graduate Council reviewed and approved the proposal to transfer the Microbiology undergraduate program to the department of Microbiology & Plant Pathology.

[Campus Review] (Proposed Degree Program) Flex Master of Public Policy (Flex MPP-SSGPDP)

Graduate Council reviewed the proposal for a Flex Master of Public Policy (Flex MPP-SSGPDP) and expressed concern about the potential for double-dipping between the state supported program and the SSGPDP. The Council felt that the proposal lacked an explanation of how there is no cost for equipment and space, as well as the cost for faculty teaching as \$33,750 seems much too low for a buyout, fractional buyouts do not exist. The Council pointed out that some of the faculty bios in the proposal include faculty who are no longer working for UCR or have not taught courses for the program in several years. The Council agreed to seek clarification on the following:

- Minimum number of students that would need to be admitted for the program to be viable
- Maximum number of students that will be admitted, and how this will impact space needs and cost
- How much faculty time will be spent on the Flex MPP?
- Could this program eventually replace the state-supported program?
- How will this impact merits and promotions as the course load for faculty should reflect their fractional commitment to the Flex MPP? Note that faculty cannot receive teaching credit for the Flex MPP component of their class as they are monetarily compensated for this effort.