

**Graduate Council
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2025**

Minutes

Graduate Council approved the minutes from the November 20, 2025 meeting as written.

Chair's Announcements

Chair Santhakumar reported that College and School Deans were invited to attend the last 30 minutes of the Graduate Council's January 15th meeting to share their concerns and provide input regarding graduate program reviews. Chair Santhakumar has reached out to Chancellor Hu's office again for a meeting with the Graduate Council and has not yet heard back. Chair Santhakumar reported that she was unable to attend the last Executive Council meeting, but nothing pertinent to Graduate Council was discussed. Chair Santhakumar reported that a subgroup of the Graduate Council was formed to decide if the Council needs to conduct a separate review of the joint doctoral program in Evolutionary Biology that UCR has with SDSU. The subgroup has met with the program's leadership from SDSU and has decided that this program needs to be reviewed and should be reviewed separately from UCR's EEOB graduate program. The subgroup learned that past participation in program reviews conducted by SDSU have not included robust participation from UCR faculty. A meeting with the Graduate Council subgroup and the UCR faculty program leadership will be scheduled after the new year.

CCGA Representative Announcements

Vice Chair and CCGA Representative Park reported that at the last CCGA meeting it was discussed that the UCAD+ workgroup on the future of graduate education is currently trying to gather information about what is happening on different campuses. Vice Chair Park reported that double counting of units for 4+1 graduate programs and the policy wording was finally approved and will be sent out soon. CCGA reviewed several CSU doctoral programs and rejected more proposals than the Council of Graduate Deans did.

GSA Representative Announcements

GSA Representative Steinhauser reported that GSA received the dates for Advocacy days which will be in March and April in Sacramento.

VPDGS Announcements

VPDGS Kos reported that she attended the Council of Graduate Schools in which UCSF, UCSB, and UCSC were also in attendance. VPDGS Kos spent time with California legislators Schiff and Padilla. VPDGS Kos reported that 80% of the Creative Writing Palm Desert students are on Grad+. The 4-year time to degree cap on visas is going to wipe out things for international students. VPDGS Kos met with the Vice President of Siemens who is interested in partnerships with graduate programs. Regarding the email that Vice Provost of International Affairs Princevac sent indicating that international students on filing fee are no longer eligible to be on filing fee, Associate Dean Sweeny checked the number of students who have been approved, and our campus is out of compliance with students on visas. Students who are on temporary filing fee status for winter and spring will receive NRT, tuition remission, and fees covered. There does not seem to be a UC policy on filing fee, so VPDGS Kos is going to propose one be created for the UC.

Courses & Programs Subcommittee

A. History Admissions Rubric revision – *approved*.

- B. Computer Science Admissions Rubric revision -- *approved*.
- C. Mechanical Engineering Admissions Rubric revision -- *approved*.
- D. School of Business Admissions Rubric revision -- *approved*.
- E. Philosophy Admissions Rubric revision – *approved*.

[Campus Review] (Consultation) Proposed initiative for UCR 2030: Increase the enrollment of California resident undergraduates - Response to Senate Feedback

Graduate Council reviewed and discussed the proposed initiative for UCR 2030: Increase the Enrollment of California Resident Undergraduates -- Response to Senate Feedback and still have the same concerns that were expressed in their May 2025 memo. The Council is not opposed to growth; however, a concrete plan with strategies to accomplish these goals is needed. This plan continues to increase faculty teaching loads as student preparedness declines, which is not recognized in this initiative. Regardless of student preparedness and quality, there is a demographic issue as there are fewer high school students to draw from. UCR's selectiveness will decrease. Graduate students are only briefly discussed in the proposal. The table on page 2 does not represent a leaner staff.

[Systemwide Review] (Proposal) Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Education Loan Practices

Graduate Council reviewed and discussed the proposed revisions to Presidential Policy on Education Loan Practices and had no comments on the proposed revisions.

[Campus Review] (Department Name Change) Department of Psychology to the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences

Graduate Council reviewed and discussed the proposed department name change from the Department of Psychology to the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and approved of the proposed name change.

[Campus Review] (Proposal) Master of Science in Data-Driven Marketing & AI Application (MSDM-AA)-SSGDP

Graduate Council reviewed and discussed the proposal for a new self-supporting MS in Data-Driven Marketing and AI Application and noted that the participating faculty listed in the proposal are not from STEM fields and do not have expertise in AI – the Council questioned who will be teaching the program's courses. Additionally, none of the required core courses involve AI and the program does not contain a fundamental AI course. The AI and STEM rigor is non-existent. The Council would like to know what makes this degree a Master of Science -- a one quarter capstone project seems to dilute what an MS is. Regarding the budget, there is a list of full-time faculty and a list of existing courses with a budget that includes the cost and revenue the program will generate. It appears the program will not cost anything because the school plans to use existing faculty. The Council would like more details on the cost of instruction. The figure of \$315,000 was presented in the proposal which should be broken down with what the program projects to lose in year 1, year 2, year 3, etc. The Council found the financial projection as presented to be inadequate.

[Campus Review] (Proposal) Proposed Pathway to Retirement Program

Graduate Council reviewed and discussed the proposed Pathway to Retirement Program, and some members of Council were familiar with analogous programs on other campuses beyond UCSC and are in principle supportive of a similar benefit on our campus. The Council would like a clearer articulation of the completely voluntary nature of the program as well as its potential benefits: course release(s), additional research and conference funding, negotiation of recall

teaching and office space post-retirement. Another concern the faculty had was the question of equity -- the Council requests that the VPAP have a transparent plan to track and share the benefits by gender, ethnicity, college, etc.

[Campus Review] (Bylaw Change) Proposed Changes School of Medicine Bylaw ME 05.06 (Graduate Advisory Committee - GAC)

Graduate Council reviewed and discussed the proposed changes to the School of Medicine Bylaw ME 05.06 and approved of the proposed changes.

Graduate Program Reviews

- A. Sociology Exception Request** – GC reviewed and discussed the program's exception request for the extramural review team to meet with staff from the Office of Civil Rights during the program's upcoming graduate program review. The Council voted in favor of allowing Associate Dean Kate Sweeny to discuss relevant information with the review team as Dean Sweeny is familiar with the information and per Graduate Council program review procedures, is already meeting with the review team as the Associate Dean of the Graduate Division.

Guest, Omar Safie, Director of Evaluation and Assessment to discuss graduate assessment

Director Omar Safie met with the Council about program level outcomes assessment which is a direct response from WASC's request. Director Safie agreed there are areas for improvement, and he created a 5-year plan. Director Safie would like to attend a future Graduate Council meeting to discuss how we use the assessment information and where it goes once it's collected.