

**Graduate Council
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2022
Zoom**

Present:

Don Collins, Chair, Chemical & Environmental Engineering
Sarita See, Vice Chair and CCGA Representative, Media & Cultural Studies
Roya Bahreini, Environmental Sciences
Djurdjica Coss, School of Medicine
Todd Fiacco, MCSB
Long Gao, School of Business
Thomas Girke, Botany & Plant Sciences
Anthonia Kalu, Comparative Literature & Languages
Tanya Nieri, Sociology
David Oglesby, Earth Sciences
Jonathan Ritter, Music
Kate Sweeny, Psychology
Christiane Weirauch, Entomology
Hai-Bo Yu, Physics & Astronomy
Nanpeng Yu, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Graduate Dean Shaun Bowler, ex officio
Valeria Dominguez, GSA Representative
Kara Oswood, guest, Graduate Division
Prof. Gerald Clarke, guest
Prof. Wesley Leonard, guest
Prof. Wallace Cleaves, guest
Provost Watkins, guest
VCPB Bomotti, guest

Absent:

Dongwei Sun, GSA Representative

Graduate Council approved the February 17, 2022 minutes as written.

Chair's Announcements

Chair Collins informed the committee that Executive Council (EC) will have a special meeting in April to make progress on R'Horizons. Chair Collins shared the document, forwarded to him by Prof. Nieri, on the NIH study of the mental health of underrepresented graduate students, titled Healing the Academy. Chair Collins informed the Council that VCPB Bomotti and Provost Watkins will be attending at the end of the meeting to discuss the proposed financial policy for SSGPDPs – Chair Collins would like members to be thinking about what they would like to use this time for. Chair Collins indicated that EC forwarded their unmasking concerns to the administration and so far, no changes have been made to the decision to unmask on April 11th.

CCGA Representative Announcements

Vice Chair See reported that Graduate Affairs is starting to revamp the web site and will emphasize equity. There will be a workforce training component for graduate students. Graduate Deans will update policy language for English language testing and proficiency. The Oracle financial system

is coming to UC. UC Merced has the system in place already and the Merced CCGA rep indicated that it is a disaster. There is a joint memo coming from CCGA and the Graduate Deans addressing concerns of the pandemic's impact on graduate education.

GSA Representative(s) Announcements

The GSA representative reported that the Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities workgroup is working on updating the document. The GSA aims to complete the document by the end of the academic year and get it to the Academic Senate by early Fall. The GSA will return to hybrid meetings for May and June. GSA is bringing back the Grad Bash in Spring quarter. The GSA rep encouraged the Grad Council to carefully review the Healing the Academy report which Collins/Nieri shared. GSA is undergoing a logo change, "decolonizing" the current logo by removing the Spanish colonial mission bell.

Graduate Dean Announcements

Dean Bowler reported that the unionization of grad students means that there is a need to separate students as students from students as employees. Graduate Deans are discussing English language testing as a condition of admission and TAing. To make determinations, nationality is not used; rather, the country from which your degree came is used. The goal is to be sure that we use good criteria for determining whether a language test is needed. Deans want to remove SVSH confidentiality if violators are found guilty after due process. Graduate Deans find withholding this information unfair to students. Dean Bowler announced that Assoc. Dean Tuncel is stepping down and will return to the department to be Chair of Electrical Engineering. Prof. Kate Sweeny has been appointed as the new Assoc. Dean of the Graduate Division effective July 1st.

Courses & Programs Subcommittee

1. Computer Science PhD change to normative time – *approved*.
2. School of Education – Change to Credential Requirements – *approved*.
3. MEd, Special Education Teaching Emphasis program change – *approved*.

Updated Disqualification Procedures

The Council reviewed and discussed the updated disqualification procedures which are a codification of current practices. Last year, the Graduate Division saw the highest number of students below a 3.0 GPA (over 100 students). Graduate Council provided feedback on the GPA cutoff and voted in favor of the proposed changes to the procedures.

Updated Academic Integrity Bylaws

The Council reviewed and discussed the updated academic integrity bylaws. The Council was supportive and voted to approve the updated bylaws as written.

Guests – Discussion of the Impact of Native & Indigenous Identity Theft & Fraudulence on Graduate Education

The Council met with Profs. Wallace Cleaves, Gerald Clarke, and Wesley Leonard about the impact of native and indigenous identity theft and fraudulence on graduate education. It was mentioned that the current policy on this is inadequate and there is a need for a more forward statement. Members of the Council requested that the campus investigate via the VC RED's committee on misconduct. It was also mentioned that the APM should have language that explicitly addresses affiliation fraud. Members were supportive of the Council making a statement regarding the impact of this situation on graduate education. Vice Chair See will work on drafting a statement for the Council's review and approval at the next meeting.

Guests – Provost Watkins and VCPB Bomotti – Discussion of Proposed FP&A Policy for SSGPDPs

The Council met with Provost Watkins and VCPB Bomotti regarding the proposed financial policy for SSGPDPs. Provost Watkins indicated that affected units would be asked the percentage of time it takes to complete tasks for SSGPDPs and that is how the dollar amount going back to these affected units will be calculated. The Council approved the most recent version of the policy.