

**Graduate Council  
Meeting Minutes  
May 19, 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  
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  
Kara Oswood, guest, Graduate Division

Absent:

Long Gao, School of Business  
Graduate Dean Shaun Bowler, ex officio  
Valeria Dominguez, GSA Representative  
Dongwei Sun, GSA Representative

**Chair's Announcements**

Chair Collins shared data related to 5-year funding for PhDs from Dean Bowler. GC reviewed and discussed the data. The topic of 5-year funding for PhDs is also being discussed at the systemwide level. Chair Collins reported that the Council is in receipt of the first financial analysis of a proposed self-supporting program (SSP) from the Office of Financial Planning & Analysis. It is likely that the Council will review this proposal at their June meeting. Vice Chair See reported that at the last Executive Council (EC) meeting, Chair Stajich noted that there are state auditors coming to UCR to do a NAGPRA audit. EC voted in favor of letting the modifications to regulations due to COVID expire after Spring 2022. The new Oracle software (financial system) will be launching soon – other UC's have said how disastrous this new system has been at their campuses. A campus safety report from the UCRPD was given to EC – new administration was tasked with folding in policing and subsuming this under campus health, safety, and wellbeing.

**CCGA Representative Announcements**

Vice Chair See reported that CCGA's experience with SSPs can and should be drawn on. Senate leadership continues to receive proposals for fully online graduate degrees. It has become clear that the number of online courses in particular programs are not being tracked. This loophole needs to be closed, and CCGA is discussing this.

**GSA Representative(s) Announcements**

The GSA representatives were absent.

## **Graduate Dean Announcements**

Dean Bowler was absent.

## **Courses & Programs Subcommittee**

1. Computer Science & Engineering program change – *approved*.
2. Business PhD approved name change – catalog revision – *approved*.
3. Political Science program change – *approved*.

## **[Campus Review] Consultation: Policy on Retention of Graded Materials:**

### **iLearn and Retention of Graded Materials**

The Council reviewed and discussed the policy. The Council felt that August may be a better time to retire the system as opposed to June which is a very busy time for faculty. Either way, the Council suggested that several reminders be sent to faculty to download their materials prior to the retirement of the system.

## **[Campus Review] Proposal: Pre-Proposal for a University Honors College at UC Riverside**

The Council reviewed and discussed the proposal. It was unclear to the Council what exactly is being proposed here. The Council questioned what “non-degree-granting” means, and how does it relate to the students’ majors and the degrees they will earn? The Council had mixed feelings about this proposed college, as it appears to allocate additional resources to students who most likely are already going to perform well. Some Council members questioned having a two-track system for educating our students. It was not clear to the Council what will be different or change in regard to faculty involvement in teaching honors courses. It appears faculty will receive a stipend for teaching honors courses, but there is no justification as to why faculty should be compensated for teaching these courses. There may be difficulty obtaining buy-in for teaching these courses, as chairs already have a difficult time making teaching assignments – now there will be two deans pressuring for teaching assignments. The Council did not agree that remote teaching is always the most effective way to teach. The Council noted that the text on page 13 of the proposal problematically treats first-generation, lower income students as having zero assets, whereas such students have much knowledge and insights coming from their communities and histories; it would be important to shift from a “deficit” to an “asset” approach. There does not appear to be a substantive plan for diversity, equity, and inclusion issues in the proposal. There is a high level of optimism regarding securing funding. If alumni donations do not pan out, what is the plan for funding?

## **[Campus Review] Department Proposal: Department of Environment, Sustainability, and Health Equity (ESHE)**

The Council reviewed the new department proposal and approved the new department but would like to provide some comments that will hopefully be considered for a future version of the proposal. Based on the information included in the proposal (nature of training provided by the proposed courses and expertise of the associated faculty), it was unclear how the students will be prepared for the type of green jobs and environmental related careers that are listed in the proposal. The Council encourages the proposers to be clear and transparent in the proposal body and the proposed catalog description of the department/program/major what types of sustainability-related jobs their majors are qualified to apply to. Including concrete numbers of where recent graduates from the existing Sustainability Studies major (those who started in the major as Freshmen and not transfers from CNAS) are currently working will help. Additionally, they are encouraged to reach

out to the School of Public Policy to be able to provide more course offerings with a technical background to their students.

**Remote Participation – options for Fall 2022**

The Council reviewed and discussed the remote options for Fall 2022 and decided to extend the current flexibility through Fall 2022 when the committee will revisit the options.

**Graduate Program Reviews**

**A. Mechanical Engineering draft F&R** – approved as written.

**Meeting with Provost Watkins and Acting Senior Campus Counsel, Steve Drown re: Anthropology admissions**

Graduate Council met with Provost Watkins and Acting Senior Campus Counsel, Steve Drown, about the moratorium the administration placed on Anthropology graduate admissions. Provost Watkins explained what happened and how decisions were made. Provost Watkins will follow up on the administration's ability to share the NAGPRA report with the Council after the investigation is complete.