

**Graduate Council  
Meeting Minutes  
June 2, 2022  
Zoom**

Present:

Don Collins, Chair, Chemical & Environmental Engineering  
Sarita See, Vice Chair and CCGA Representative, Media & Cultural Studies  
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  
Kara Oswood, guest, Graduate Division

Absent:

Roya Bahreini, Environmental Sciences  
Valeria Dominguez, GSA Representative  
Dongwei Sun, GSA Representative

Graduate Council voted in favor of approving the minutes from April 21, 2022 and May 19, 2022 as written.

**Chair's Announcements**

Chair Collins informed the committee that the revised grade appeal process (Regulation 5) was approved at the May Division meeting. Chair Collins reported that another grade appeal was received on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Chair Collins reported that Executive Council discussed disruptions around finals due to the increase in COVID cases. This will likely be the last GC meeting of the academic year; however, it is very likely that items will be sent by email over the summer for discussion/vote. Christiane Weirauch was announced as the new GC Chair.

**CCGA Representative Announcements**

Vice Chair See reported that the Governor's revised budget came with funds for climate-related research, \$100 million for competitive grants, \$50 million for regional hubs, and \$35 million for workforce development. Senate leadership report – the Senate Chair reported that at the recent Academic Council meetings there has been a lot of discussion about fully online degrees. There is a proposal for the restoration of the residency requirement. If this passes, it will go to UCEP for

review. The Senate's focus for online education has been on the cheating industry. The Senate is opening discussions with community colleges on this topic. GSR unionization – the focus is changes and challenges to the mentor/mentee relationship. There have been ongoing reports at CCGA regarding the new Oracle financial system. UC Merced and UCSD reps have reported about the disasters related to the software occurring on their campuses. UCR's memo to CCGA regarding native fraudulence is being discussed and CCGA will use it as a model to draft their memo to the systemwide Senate leaders.

### **GSA Representative(s) Announcements**

The GSA representatives were absent.

### **Graduate Dean Announcements**

Dean Bowler thanked Chair Collins for his service this past year as GC Chair and Prof. Weirauch for her service as next year's GC Chair. Regarding GSRs, Dean Bowler reported that the Graduate Deans have not been updated by Labor Relations yet. He called for faculty involvement in the bargaining process. Dean Bowler discussed the data that was circulated to the committee previously regarding 5-year packages and the change in the graduate student population. The PhD proportion is shrinking as masters are growing much faster. This is due in large part to Professional Masters programs. Over the past 10 years UCR has grown by 60% largely due to the increase in masters. Dean Bowler reminded GC that Prof. Kate Sweeny is replacing Prof. Ertem Tuncel as Associate Dean of the Graduate Division effective July 1, 2022.

### **Courses & Programs Subcommittee**

1. MSOL program change -- *approved with suggested revisions from Chair Collins.*
2. SEATRiP program change – *approved.*
3. Visual Art program change – *approved.*
4. New Designated Emphasis in Chemical Education – *approved.*
5. Business – *proposed changes to master level programs (GRE optional) catalog copy – GC agreed that the details the School of Business was proposing be eliminated from the catalog need to be added back in. The school needs to be up front about the funding issue. The Council voted in favor of requesting that the school include language about admission criteria other than the GRE.*
6. MSBA program change – *the Council voted in favor of waiting to receive the data requested to make an informed decision to change the requirements. \*Data and response received 6/8/22 and 6/9/22; Graduate Council voted by email and approved on 6/9/22.*

### **Proposal for an Online MBA (OMBA) program – SSGPDP**

The Council reviewed and discussed the proposed Online MBA program. The Council had several questions and concerns with this new proposed program. The proposal states that, pedagogically, the program will be identical to the existing MBA and Professional MBA (PMBA) programs in the School of Business (BUS). However, it is not -- the OMBA is only 64 units with no field work/internship requirement. This new OMBA does not appear to have an exam or internship, but rather a capstone course that sounds like a seminar and does not seem rigorous enough for the culminating component of a master's degree. Rather than eliminating it, why not modify the internship requirement using something similar to the referenced UC Davis program that includes in-person residences at several locations, which aims to serve the Northern California area and

enhances the program's pedagogical objectives. Creating “evergreen” content that remains viable for a long period of time without becoming outdated and requiring little to no maintenance does not seem to line up with the purpose and importance of the need for course content to change and develop. The proposal indicates that the new program will have fewer units than the existing MBA and PMBA programs but does not clarify how this will be achieved without making this inferior to those existing degrees and to online programs offered by peer universities. At first glance, the benchmarking provided in Appendix 2 suggests that this program will require more credits than average for this region, but that average is skewed by a lot of programs offered by universities that UCR should not view as peers. Considering just the ranked business schools, the average is 50.3 semester equivalent units, whereas this program will have only 42.7. There was concern that a watered-down program that awards what is argued to be an equivalent MBA could hurt graduates from the existing MBA and PMBA programs and the reputation of UCR and BUS. Members questioned why and how this program is distinctive to UCR? There are no citations that support the excellence of online learning. Are there ways that the existing MBA and/or PMBA could instead be modified to make them more accessible?

Regarding Everspring, is there a guaranteed protection of student and faculty privacy and data? Why not use the funds being paid to Everspring and instead create IT staff positions at UCR to handle this work? It was unclear to members why this is being subcontracted out. Using the term “money maker” when arguing for the use of Everspring is not a strong argument. Could this partnership with a for-profit company impact UCR’s accreditation? Are there any other programs on campus that have contracted with a private company such as this? If so, what were their experiences?

Members wanted to see more explanation of how this program will enhance state-supported programs and how it will not negatively impact departments outside of BUS that offer services to the students.

### **Graduate Program Reviews**

- 1) **English response to GC’s F&R** – GC voted in favor of closing out this review with the addition of a paragraph to the close out memo that specifically addresses the concerns with the relationship between the English department and the University Writing Program.
- 2) **Anthropology response to GC’s F&R** – GC voted in favor of closing out this review.

### **GUEST: Omar Safie, Director of Evaluation and Assessment**

GC met with Omar Safie, Director of Evaluation and Assessment. Omar updated the Council on the annual assessment process. Omar asked for the Council’s thoughts on a new annual assessment reporting process. The Council agreed with the new proposed process of a three-year full reporting plan.

Minutes approved electronically by GC on 7/18/22