

**Graduate Council
Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2025**

After introductions, Graduate Council unanimously approved their conflict-of-interest statement for 2025/26 with the addition of “or vice chair” after “chair” to clarify that the vice chair will act in the chair’s place if the chair has a conflict of interest. The Council also reviewed the committee’s bylaws.

Chair Santhakumar presented a PowerPoint to the committee and outlined the committee’s responsibilities and procedures.

Graduate Council reviewed the 2025/26 officers and subcommittee assignments. Chair Santhakumar explained the way in which subcommittees function.

Chair’s Announcements

Chair Santhakumar reported that she has sent a couple of requests to the new UCR Chancellor to meet with Graduate Council and is still waiting to get a meeting scheduled. Senate Chair Barish indicated that he would like a streamlined process for committees to meet with the new Chancellor. Chair Santhakumar will be attending the executive leadership retreat on October 7th in Palm Desert and plans to bring up graduate education as a topic of concern.

Graduate Council meeting modality

Graduate Council discussed future committee meeting modality and the majority voted in favor of meeting in-person for all meetings.

**[Systemwide Review] (Report Review) Interim report of the Academic Senate
Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions (UCAD)**

Graduate Council discussed the interim report of the Academic Senate Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions. The Council was generally supportive of the report, especially how it keeps the governance of academic programs with the faculty. The Council would like the report to explicitly include issues regarding graduate student support and fellowships. Approaches to supporting students when they face loss of fellowship funding should be included as part of the research funding (point 1). The Council would also like clarification about where the bridge funds will come from.

Graduate Council’s goals and plans for the year

Graduate Council wants to meet with all college/school deans in the fall. The Council agreed to discuss interdepartmental programs and their lack of funding with the Deans, perhaps requesting an MOU be drafted for funding interdepartmental graduate students. Members mentioned that GAANS need to be on the Council’s radar this year as they will have an impact on recruiting. There was a desire to revise graduate program review procedures to require that college/school deans submit a letter that discusses what steps have been taken to remedy the issues raised from the program’s previous review. The Council will work with Graduate Division to implement Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training. Members also expressed interest in discussing student visa issues and obtaining transcripts.