

## Graduate Group Chairs Meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. | Zoom

### Meeting Minutes

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Graduate Group Chairs Present: John Abatzoglou, Chris Amemiya, Irene Beattie, YangQuan Chen, Chih-Chun Chien, Martha Conklin, Courtenay Conrad, Justin Cook, Kevin Dawson, Christine Isborn, Sarah Kurtz, Roummel Marcia, Shawn Newsam, Victor Munoz, Jan Wallander, Irene Yen  
Monica Garcia, Vanessa Leyva, Paul Roberts (Graduate Group Coordinators)  
Erin Hestir (Graduate Council Vice-Chair)

Graduate Division Staff Present: Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, Eric Cannon, Jesus Cisneros, Ashley Eagleson, Cassie Gunter, Heath Jackson, Chris Kello, Maria Nishanian, Jennifer Quiralte, Will Lee-Ladouceur, Jessica Ventura, Tsu Ya

#### Announcements

- Graduate Division's Virtual Office Hours were held on Tuesday, April 27 from 12:00-1:00PM.
- Asmeret Asefaw Berhe nominated by President Biden for the position of Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy! She will be stepping down from her position of Interim Associate Director for Graduate Division sometime in the coming months.

#### 1. Dean's Updates & Discussion Items (Interim Dean, Chris Kello)

- Academic Planning Phase III
  - [The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA) continues to consult with the EVC/Provost and APAPB on phase III of academic planning as well as strategic planning and the budget.
  - Please review the email sent from Interim Dean Kello on 4/27/21 re: Academic Planning Phase III and provide any feedback you may have within the next two weeks. We will discuss this further in our next meeting.
- Summer/Fall Instructional Plans
  - UC Merced is still planning for in-person instruction this fall. Employees will be provided an option to submit a request for medical exemption/religious accommodation. Guidance will go out during the summer.
  - There will be no overseas telecommute work for international students unless an exception is approved for academic appointees stuck overseas because of a travel ban, travel restriction, or inability to obtain visas due to closed consular offices, and only if the work could be conducted remotely. For those students who cannot return to campus, we are again asking them to defer to Spring 2021.
    - Fellowships are an option.
    - Remote courses may be offered on a case-by-case basis (GC approval required). We are still formulating a process for bringing in outside speakers.
- Virtual Hooding Ceremony--May 15
  - The Graduate Division will host a virtual hooding ceremony on Zoom for commencement, tentatively planned for the afternoon of May 15, 2-3:30pm.
  - Ph.D. awardees and their advisors will be invited to attend, along with guests of the student. An official invitation will go out in the coming weeks that students can then pass on to their family and committee members.
  - Interim Dean Kello will go through the list of students who RSVP to announce their degrees and provide a space for advisors to briefly comment. We are also looking for a way to express the act of hooding, symbolically at least.
  - Graduate Division staff will follow-up with a save the date, containing an RSVP link later today. RSVP's are due by May 7.

- Regalia is no longer available for rent, but students can still purchase their cap and gown from the campus bookstore until Saturday, May 15.
- An in-person commencement ceremony will be held for all students who've graduated since the start of COVID in late 2021-22. More information will be communicated closer to the date.
- Faculty Career Day--May 3 (Jesus)
  - Faculty Career Day is coming up on Monday May 3. Morning (10-12pm) and afternoon (1-3p) sessions. The morning session will focus on community college faculty, while the afternoon session will focus on CSUs. The event is open to all grads and postdocs, [https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/faculty\\_careers\\_day](https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/faculty_careers_day).
    - **ACTION: Jesus will forward the announcement that went out to all grads and postdocs by the end of the day. Please help us distribute the information and encourage your students to attend.**
- Graduate Group Chair Plans for Next Year
  - GGC End-of-Year Reports (Jesus)
    - The Annual End-of-Year Reports are being prepped to go out by end of week. Please review the data we have compiled for your program and complete the additional questions, including projected enrollment numbers through Fall 2023.
    - At the start of May we'll be sending out the Annual Student Academic Progress Reports and we ask that you please conduct an evaluation for each of your students.
  - End-of-Year GGC Meetings
    - Graduate Group Chair terms will be ending this summer for several of you. Ashley Eagleson will be scheduling 1:1 meetings with each chair to review the year and start the transition to new GG chairs for those rotating out.
  - End-of-Year Gatherings
    - A couple of graduate groups have been asking about end-of-year gatherings on campus after June 2021. Parameters are taking shape that this is allowable outdoors, < 100 people. Beverages are okay, food is possible (with minimal commingling). Masks are required to stay on when not drinking or eating.
    - This process will be further discussed, with Andy Boyd and company to approve.
    - Interested graduate groups should contact Interim Dean Kello to coordinate.

## 2. Admissions & Academic Services (Tsu Ya)

- Admits/SIR Update
  - 1113 Applications received
  - 306 Admits
  - 174 SIRs
    - The SIR yield rate is currently at 57%, which is slightly higher than last year.
    - Coordinators are asked to please disposition students as soon as possible.

## 3. Events (Jennifer Quiralte)

- Grad Slam
  - Applied Mathematics Ph.D. student Shayna Bennet will represent UC Merced along with finalists from our nine sister campuses in the University of California's 2021 Grad Slam finale held on Friday, May 7, 9:45am-11:15am. All finalist recordings and registration links for the final Grad Slam event will be uploaded to the Graduate Division website.
- Dissertation Bootcamp
  - An email went out to all graduate students on April 12 inviting them to apply for our Virtual Summer Dissertation Bootcamp to be held May 17-21. Applications are due by 11:59am, May 2.

<https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/form/summer-2021-dissertation-boot-camp-application>

- Questions can be directed to [gradresources@ucmerced.edu](mailto:gradresources@ucmerced.edu).

#### 4. Summer Bridge (Cassie Gunter)

- A second call went out to those graduate groups who only had 1 student confirmed.
- All student nominations are due by 5pm on May 11. Currently there are 9 spots available of the 20 eligible.
- Additional information about the program, including the schedule and fellowship distribution details will be sent to participants the first week of June. The program will run July 6-August 12.

#### 5. Financial Services (Eric Cannon)

- Recruiting/Continuing Fellowships Status
  - Eric presented a summary of the continuing and recruiting fellowships. The summary was emailed to all chairs and support staff for review.
    - Award letters will go out to the students through Slate today, and a traditional email will follow, which includes the chair and faculty advisor.
    - Decline emails will also go out through Slate.
- Each graduate group has at least 1 dissertation semester fellowship next year that you can decide on. If you want it for fall 2021, you can run your selection process in the spring or summer. Please just let Graduate Division know your decision by August.
  - Brenda Cuevas, [bcuevas5@ucmerced.edu](mailto:bcuevas5@ucmerced.edu) has developed an online form and depository for the students to put their application in. If other groups are interested in using this method, feel free to reach out to Brenda for access.

#### 6. Graduate Council Vice Chair's Report (Erin Hestir)

- CCGA is looking at ways to close the loop on changes in their policy on changes to programs. Head's up, there may be policy changes forthcoming sometime in the next year.
- GC continues to check in on the CRI working group. The outcomes of that process will continue through next year.
- GC is working in close partnership with Graduate Division and GSA to help graduate students draft a rights and responsibilities document. We hope to have something prepared to present to you by next year.
- The Master of Public Health program proposal is in review and will be discussed at the next meeting, as well as the Public Health graduate group policies and procedures bylaws.
- There was an emergency Div. Co. meeting that was recently held about the BSP not opening and the impact that has had on faculty. GC is keeping a close eye on this because of the impact it might have to graduate students and postdocs.
  - For those chairs whose groups are being impacted, please reach out to Erin Hestir or Hrant Hratchian with your student numbers.
    - **ACTION: Erin will send a call out to the group later today requesting this information.**
- GC is looking at the TA and Teaching Fellows supervisory responsibilities and how they're falling through in the current MAP vs. the APM. GC will be opining upon this soon.
- GC is reviewing the draft strategic plan and has found some potential issues in terms of conflicts between undergraduate and graduate targets. We will be opining upon some of those target numbers as well.
- APO has revised the proposed 500 after faculty feedback. GC is very unhappy with that because it doesn't track to the APM, and is making their opinions known.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:58 A.M.**