

Graduate Group Chairs Meeting

Thursday, January 20, 2022

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Graduate Group Chairs Present: John Abatzoglou, Chris Amemiya, Irene Beattie, YangQuan Chen, Chih-Chun Chien, Kevin Dawson, Brad LeVeck, Changqing Li, Sidra Goldman-Mellor, Rowena Gray, Martin Hagger, Christine Isborn, Sarah Kurtz, Roummel Marcia, Fred Wolf (QSB Representative)
Monica Garcia, Will Lee-Ladouceur (Graduate Group Coordinators)
Sandie Ha (Graduate Council Vice-Chair)

Graduate Division Staff Present: Eric Cannon, Jesus Cisneros, Ashley Eagleson, Cassie Gunter, Heath Jackson, Chris Kello, Tania Macias, Jennifer Quiralte, Jess Ventura

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Reminder: Please submit your Faculty List updates for Spring 2022. Changes can be made directly to the google spreadsheet,
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Qd9zRFFEWxE6_wTZdlWd2z5PICCv-Wisu_IYvEwn7U/edit?usp=sharing.

MINUTES

1. Dean's Updates & Discussion Items (Chris Kello)
 - Fall 2022 Visas from India: In December, multiple graduate students from India reported that the US embassies and consulates in India are not scheduling appointments between February through end of summer. These are continuing students who are considering visa renewals; however, this could greatly affect the chances of any new Fall 2022 students from India getting a student visa to join UC Merced. If this happens, we will expect deferrals from up to 60 applicants.
 - PhD Admissions Process: We continue to push towards R1 status by 2030, per the strategic plan. Target admission numbers are still needed from several graduate groups, so please email your figures directly to Interim Dean Kello when you have some idea of the number of TAs your program will need for next year.
 - R1 Fellowship Process: An ad hoc review committee with representation from Graduate Council and Committee on Research met to review submissions based on the solicitation criterion, and recommend three-year plans for funding. Based on their recommendations, and given budget constraints, we were able to award 26 fellowships, with each being funded at \$45,000 to cover at least full stipend, tuition, fees, and insurance for the academic year. Interim Dean Kello will continue to work with the Graduate Group Chairs on award disbursement and asks that everyone please review the offer letter that went out on 12/15/21, and email gradservices@ucmerced.edu with the name of your student/new admit prior to sending out the offer.
 - Chairs may nominate their R1 Admit for multiple fellowships.

- The R1 Fellowship may go to an advanced student if another fellowship is awarded, by way of deferring.
- Resident Tuition & Fees are roughly \$8k per semester or \$16k for the year; for non-resident PhDs, their NRST will be covered by Graduate Division for six semesters if they are fully funded. For additional questions related to tuition and fee estimates, please email gradfunding@ucmerced.edu.
- In-person Instruction: Campus leadership announced that graduate and upper division undergraduate courses will be in-person starting January 31, as planned. Lower division undergraduate courses and a few large courses will remain remote for an additional 1-2 weeks. We anticipate a return date of February 7, but additional guidance will go out in the coming days.

2. Graduate Programming & Events (Jen Quiralte)

- Virtual Graduate Visitation Days: Jen Quiralte shared a draft schedule for VGVD, with all events being fully remote. Graduate Division can provide support for a small number of targeted events (i.e., program specific sessions), and Graduate Group Chairs are asked to email their requests to Jen Quiralte and/or Jess Ventura by no later than February 7. For all other department-specific events, support will need to come from the school level.
- Save the Dates will go out within the next two weeks.

3. Admissions & Academic Services (Tania Macias)

- Applications & Admissions Update:
 - Fall 2022;
 - 904 Submitted Applications
 - 32 Admitted Students
 - In comparison to last year, we're down roughly 100 applications.

4. Recruitment (Jesus Cisneros, Jess Ventura)

- Update/Debrief: If there are any graduate programs that still have applications open, which need to be closed, please email jventura9@ucmerced.edu as soon as possible. Once closed, we can update our records with your new application due dates. Those programs with applications still open, will continue to be marketed to our Apps in Progress and Lead Pools. If you would like a list of all Apps in Progress for your program, or assistance with hosting additional webinars/outreach, please email Jess Ventura to make arrangements.

5. Financial Services (Eric Cannon)

- Graduate Fellowships--Reminder: Nominations for Graduate Division's Recruitment Fellowships are due by Friday, January 28, and should be submitted in Slate via the review form. Nominations for Continuing Fellowships are due by Monday, January 31.
 - We are still in need of reviewers for our campus-wide graduate students fellowships during next semester, and ask that each Graduate Group Chair identify faculty colleagues from their graduate groups to review 6-8 fellowship applications per review period. Please reference the email sent on 12/18/21 for more information.
 - **Action: Eric Cannon will send the Fellowship Review Timeline to Melany Snyder and Sang Lee.**

6. Graduate Resources (Cassie Gunter)

- CSU Career Day: Graduate Division will host CSU Career Day on Friday, February 4 from 10am-12pm. Faculty have been recruited to speak from across 4 different CSU campuses.
- CAPS Student Support Groups: CAPS has expanded its graduate student support groups, which are now being held twice per week, on Tuesdays at 3:00pm, and Wednesdays at 11:00am.
- Weekly Digest Update: Graduate Division has started to include employment and internship opportunities for graduate students in the weekly digest. If you have opportunities to share, please forward them to gradresources@ucmerced.edu or feel free to submit them via the webform, <https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/form/event-and-program-publicity-request-form>.
- GradEXCEL: For those programs who are participating in the Peer Mentor Program, we have been in contact about Spring Admits and Mentor Logs will begin next week. We hope to be able to host more in-person events once we return to campus in-person.

7. Graduate Council Vice Chair's Report (Sandie Ha)

- Conflict Resolution Document Update: *In progress*. GC has received comments from all stakeholders (i.e., deans, chairs, senate committee) and is now working on compiling the feedback to see if there are any recurring themes to build off.
- Online Instruction: GC continues to work with UGC to finalize the review criteria for any courses that have online component. GC will meet again today to establish guidelines, forms, and rubrics, with hopes for resolution by the end of January.
- Emergency Education Continuity: In April 2020, GC approved the policy for Emergency Education Continuity, allowing Graduate Groups flexibility in facilitating a students' continued timely progress towards their degree, by granting automatic approval to modify their Program requirements, provided they meet the minimum requirements set forth in the GPPH. This is only to be granted during any period of emergency declared as defined in the Emergency Course Continuity Policy, and one semester afterwards. The Emergency Course Continuity policy expired at the end of Spring 2021, which in turn, makes the Emergency Education Continuity policy expire at the end of Fall 2021. Recently DivCo voted in favor of declaring an emergency for Spring 2022, without the Emergency Course Continuity addenda. Therefore, we are not clear on whether the Emergency Educational Continuity policy will be effective this semester. GC will meet again on Tuesday, January 25 to further discuss.

8. Other Business (All)

- Spark Seminars: Our three schools are developing [Spark Seminars](#) to be delivered by advanced graduate students interested in gaining experience as instructors while contributing to undergraduate education on campus. See email from graddean@ucmerced.edu sent on 1/14/22 for more information.