

Graduate Group Chairs Meeting
Tuesday, January 26, 2021
9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. | Zoom

Meeting Minutes

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

Graduate Division Staff Present: Eric Cannon, Jesus Cisneros, Ashley Eagleson, Heath Jackson, Chris Kello, Jennifer Quiralte, Will Suh, Jessica Ventura

1. Graduate Division Events & Deadlines Calendar (Jesus Cisneros)

- The updated calendar for Spring & Summer 2021 can be viewed online at, https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/gd_ay20-21_ddcal_08.28.20_0.pdf

2. VGVD-Virtual Graduate Visitation Days (Jennifer Quiralte)

- A final schedule of events for VGVD will go out by COB today, January 26.
 - If your graduate group would like to suggest graduate students to represent them during the student panels on the 19th, please email those names to jquiralte@ucmerced.edu by February 3. We are hoping for at least 1 student per graduate group.
- Admit numbers are requested by Noon on Friday, January 29 for all graduate groups that are interested in receiving funding for swag.
 - Groups are asked to use their operational budgets to purchase swag initially. Graduate Division will reimburse groups for the full amount of what is spent, up to \$50/prospective admit. If your group does not have enough money in their budget to cover the initial purchase, please let us know.
 - Save the dates will go out to all admits tomorrow, January 29 by COB.
- For those groups who are interested in hosting a program specific webinar and would like our help, please reach out to jventura9@ucmerced.edu as soon as possible. We will need a minimum of 2-weeks to plan and coordinate this with your group. https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Q007xU_mTaNUaMBaUggUinM0Hvwhth5_eigHuD09yYk/edit#gid=0

3. Fellowship Reminders (Eric Cannon)

- We are looking for up to 3 faculty volunteers from each graduate group to help conduct reviews for both the recruitment fellowships and the continuing student fellowships. Please submit your faculty names to ecannon2@ucmerced.edu by Friday, January 29.
- The nomination deadline for AY 2021-22 Graduate Division Recruitment Fellowships is Friday, January 29. These should be your TOP admissions applicants. See email sent from Eric Cannon on 1/6/21 for more information.
 - All nominations should be submitted in Slate via the review form.
 - All nominations should include a brief (200-word max) description of the qualifications of nominees addressing the given set of questions.

4. Applications Update (Will Suh & Chris Kello)

- Will Suh presented and discussed a 3-year comparison of admissions numbers, from 2019-21.
 - Overall, PhD admissions are up by roughly 32%.
 - Looking at demographics, we are up across all 3 areas by more than 45%.
 - In general, we are keeping up the pace and, in some areas, exceeding the trends of other UC campuses.
- We continue to move forward with Search Engine Optimization and will plan to present an update towards the end of Spring. So far, there has been a steady increase in site traffic.

5. Dean's Updates & Discussion Items (Chris Kello)

- PhD Admissions Management: We have received a directive from the Provost to curb admissions and control enrollment growth of PhDs because of the current fiscal situation. Given this immediate need to scale back, we will revisit this again in the coming months.
- Academic Budget Workgroup: Kurt Schnier is chairing a budget committee, that has been charged with revisiting the TA Allocation Model and determining how it can be implemented in order to help graduate programs find stability given the current shift in budgets. More information to follow.
- Enrollment Projections: We anticipate a request from UCOP in early February for our 5-year targets for enrollment. Chairs can expect to receive a formal request for their (aspirational) numbers in the coming weeks.
- Academic Planning Phase 2: There is a draft academic plan for Graduate Division that has been circling around. So far, we have received feedback from CAPRA and the Provost. Next, we would like to request feedback from the Graduate Group Chairs. Given the time constraints, this will be added to next month's agenda for discussion.
- UCOP Graduate Student Survey: In lieu of UCM Graduate Division's annual Graduate Student Survey, UCOP will now be running their own survey, with certain items being standardized for all 10 campuses. There will be a section for UC Merced to include its own survey questions, and IRDS is currently working on putting that together. We hope to have a draft version prepared to present later this spring.

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

- Graduate Council Vice Chair, Erin Hestir provided an update on Graduate Council recent activities;
 - There was feedback from CCGA regarding a 4+1 program policy--if a graduate program decides to accept existing coursework as part of the fulfillment of a graduate degree, that is solely at the campus purview. CCGA doesn't need to see it.
 - PROC is going to start working on compiling at the end of the year, a list of programs that are impacted by resources, and they will start reporting those resource implications and impacts to the Senate.
 - The Faculty/Graduate Student Conflict Resolution Infrastructure Workgroup continues to progress and there will be more information to share from those meetings in the coming months.
 - Review of new courses and graduate student IORs continue to proceed, on schedule. For those who are looking for a standard template of course resources and policies, it has been standardized and is now available on Cat Courses.
 - We are currently working with the registrar's office to start thinking about other ways that we can improve Curriculog over the next few years.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.