

Graduate Group Chairs Meeting
Wednesday, October 21, 2020
10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. | Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Graduate Group Chairs Present: Irene Beattie, Anita Bhappu, YangQuan Chien, Chi-Chun Chien, Martha Conklin, Courtenay Conrad, Justin Cook, Christine Isborn, Sarah Kurtz, Roummel Marcia, Shawn Newsam, Paul Smaldino, Jan Wallander, Irene Yen
Erin Hestir (Graduate Council Vice-Chair)

Graduate Division Staff Present: Asmeret Berhe, Eric Cannon, Jesus Cisneros, Ashley Eagleson, Heath Jackson, Chris Kello, Tania Macias, Tsu Ya

Guest Presenter: Kurt Schnier (Associate EVC/Provost, Academic Planning & Budget)

1. Fall 2021 Admissions Management Model (Kurt Schnier)

- Detailed discussion ensued of the new financial, Graduate Enrollment Model.
 - This model does not simply add additional graduates for new faculty (e.g., based on an expected PhD-to-faculty ratio), but instead, new faculty would be added as sources of graduate support (e.g., start-up, grant, research, etc.).
 - External funding amounts presented are rough estimates, with lots of variability, which we can update as new grants arise.
 - Full-year TAs will be offered based on the TA allocation model, but to be clear, how TAs are assigned and allocated are not part of this model and will be a separate discussion.
 - Meetings have been scheduled with each of the schools to go into further detail about this new model. SSHA meetings will take place on Monday and Tuesday, October 26-27.

2. Dean's Updates & Discussion Items (Interim Dean Kello & Graduate Division)

- USAP Allocations
 - We have final numbers, which will be reviewed on Thursday, October 22. Memos will go out shortly after with allocations. Dollar amounts per PhD student will stay roughly the same as last year.
- Enrollment Projections
 - Twice per year the Graduate Dean receives projections of the chair's graduate group enrollments out 5-years. Interim Dean Kello will follow-up with an email requesting this information in the coming weeks.
- Fall/Spring In-person Instruction & Research
 - The campus has moved into Tier II, which means we will hopefully be able to implement a form where all faculty and graduates (within a certain density) can request to access space on campus for the purpose of instructional research. These forms would be reviewed by the GGCs for approval. More details to follow.
- International Student Update / ASEs Overseas
 - According to APO, we will not be able to employ students or academic employees in the spring, remotely overseas. As a result, we will ask those students who planned to enroll in spring, to defer to fall, and we are working on

an option to offer them housing. APO plans to send out an announcement by the end of the week with further guidance.

- UCM Chancellor's Predoctoral Fellowship (Tentative Title)
 - The campus will receive up to three awards each academic year, which includes full stipend for 12 months. Each graduate group is encouraged to nominate someone from their department. Nominations are due by the end of February. See attached handout for more information.
- Adding Alumni to Graduate Group Websites
 - Chairs are asked to please work with Brenda Ortiz to update your websites. She will however be out on leave November 10-30, so Jesus Cisneros will serve as the secondary contact if you have any questions or feedback during her absence.
- Proposed Edits to the Change of Advisor Form
 - Proposal to add two checkboxes that acknowledges the student communicated with, and/or met with, everyone involved in the process.
 - Consensus from the group to include the Graduate Group Support Staff to the checkbox that states, "I have consulted with...."

ACTION: Interim Dean Kello will email the Chairs requesting their Fall Enrollment Projections.

3. Revisiting Action Items (Chris Kello)

- Annual Student Progress Report format
 - In Progress – Tabled for discussion until the November Graduate Group Chairs Meeting.

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

- Graduate Council Vice Chair, Erin Hestir provided an update on Graduate Council recent activities;
 - GC is on track with its review of course proposals.
 - GC undertook a review of whether it needed policy for Self-Supporting Degree Programs. GC will continue to only accept the CCGA format.
 - GC is in review of the Gallo School Program as well as a program policy put forth for 4+1 programs.
 - GC opined about the curtailment proposal with regards to the following;
 - the proposal of pay cuts
 - clarification around academic employee salary reduction and how that was calculated
 - the expectation that postdocs and other externally funded staff should be exempt
 - the expectation that student employees would be exempt
 - The Divisional Council has been charged with an anti-racism action plan, which entails all the Senate committees reviewing its bylaws. GC welcomes assistance from the Chairs to review these regulations and identify potential instances where revisions can be made/changed to help reduce occurrences of institutional racism that may be embedded in these regulations. If interested, please contact Erin Hestir at ehestir@ucmerced.edu.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 A.M.

Next Graduate Group Chairs Meeting: Wednesday, November 18 from 10:30AM – 11:30AM.