

Graduate Group Chairs Meeting
Monday, October 25, 2021
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

Graduate Group Chairs Present: John Abatzoglou, Chris Amemiya, Irene Beattie, Alberto Cerpa, YangQuan Chen, Chih-Chun Chien, Martha Conklin, Kevin Dawson, Rowena Gray, Martin Hagger, Sarah Kurtz, Brad LeVeck, Roummel Marcia, Fred Wolf (QSB Representative)
Vanessa Leyva, Monica Garcia (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, Will Lee-Ladouceur, Maria Nishanian, Jennifer Quiralte, Jess Ventura, Tsu Ya

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- On Tuesday, November 2, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will meet to vote on Asmeret Asefaw Berhe's nomination for Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy. It is likely that the committee will advance her nomination, and we hope to have a positive outcome soon!
- NASEM will hold a symposium on-campus this Thursday, October 28 from 11:15-12:15pm to discuss the topic of Supportive Inclusive Excellence in Research Pathways at UC Merced.
 - <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/10-28-2021/supporting-diversity-and-excellence-in-research-pathways-at-uc-merced>
 - <https://twitter.com/theNASEM>

MINUTES

1. Dean's Updates & Discussion Items (Chris Kello)
 - PhD Admissions: The Graduate Group Chairs are asked to please email the following updates/estimates for your graduate group to ckello@ucmerced.edu when available:
 - How many students will be enrolled next year?
 - Approximately how much TA funding will you need?
 - Approximately how much non-TA funding will you need?
 - Please provide an estimate on SIR yield.
 - **Action: Chris will speak with the other Deans and reiterate this process and what is needed from each school during tomorrow's Deans Meeting.**
 - New Funds: The Chancellor would like to reach R1 by 2030, which means, Graduate Division will hopefully receive additional fellowship funding over the next 2 years. A small portion of the funds will be used for general increases, but the majority will be dedicated to reaching R1. Chair feedback;
 - Incentivize students and advisors to get students through within 5 years or less, and request degree conferrals.
 - Incentivize funding such as, with construction contracts, and award bonuses for early completion.
 - Incentivize the individual and/or groups bringing in extramural funding (i.e., matching funds).
 - Work on getting the new building(s) open to help students finish up.
 - Continue to enroll good, quality, students, to ensure careers in top ranked institutions/businesses.
 - Chancellor's Inclusive Excellence Increase: This year we have created a 2-year fellowship; however, we will not be able to retroactively make the first-round 2 years.
 - Master's Degree Plan II Exam Committee: Graduate Council is opining on whether for a master's degree (including matriculating, masters along the way), their needs to be a committee to sign off on passing the qualifying exam for the Plan II. This would also include program-wide committees, and does not affect graduate groups which already have a committee structure of their own already in place.

2. Graduate Resources (Cassie Gunter, Asmeret Asefaw Berhe)
 - Grad EXCEL: Grad EXCEL has kicked off. Mentor logs went out last week. No major issues amongst participating groups. The next set of logs will be due early November.
 - Upcoming CAPS Meeting: There is an upcoming meeting with CAPS to discuss some of the unique needs and challenges currently affecting graduate students.
 - As a reminder, CAPS hosts a graduate student support group weekly, however, due to lack of attendance, the international students support group has been cancelled until further notice.
 - Graduate Professional Development Course CRF: We have a one-credit Graduate Professional Development course that has been temporarily cross listed in several grad programs. We would like to make the CRFs permanent and are open to chair feedback on how to proceed with communicating this course to the campus for endorsement.
 - Consensus to list it as a one-course offering through a Graduate Division CRF.
 - https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/sites/graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/files/documents/berhe_fall_2021_prof_dev_seminar_schedule.pdf
 - **ACTION: Ashley will email syllabus information out to the Graduate Group Chairs for review (e.g., QSB 294, Grad. Prof. Dev. Seminar). COMPLETED 10/27/21.**
3. Recruitment (Will Lee-Ladouceur)
 - Webinars: We are in the middle of recruitment season, and have started program specific webinars, alongside the more general Graduate Division webinars. From the three seminars we've hosted so far, more than 60 students have participated. We expect an increase during the months of November and December.
 - For a list of scheduled webinars, <https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/prospective-students/choose-merced/recruitment-events>.
 - If your program does not have a webinar schedule to-date, feel free to email Jess Ventura, jventura9@ucmerced.edu, and we'll reach out to make arrangements (optional).
 - SEO, SEM: Marketing efforts are underway. Once we have more data to share, we will communicate numbers with each graduate group.
 - The Graduate Division will say farewell to Will Lee-Ladouceur, as he moves into the new role of Director of Graduate Programs with UC Merced's School of Engineering effective Monday, November 1. As part of the transition, he will continue to dedicate two days a week to the Graduate Division for the first 3 weeks of November. In the interim, Assistant Dean Cisneros will work closely with Jess Ventura to finish up the recruitment cycle.
4. Graduate Programming & Events (Jen Quiralte)
 - Graduate Visitation Weekend: We are moving forward with a hybrid format for GVW this year, which will be held on Thursday and Friday, February 24-25, 2022. Majority of the sessions will be synchronous, and for those who are interested in bringing speakers to campus, we will work with you to arrange those activities. This is of course, pending COVID guidelines in early spring. We will continue to discuss the schedule of events during our next meeting.
 - Consensus to cancel the large reception event permanently.
5. Admissions & Academic Services (Tsu Ya)
 - G-RISE and Slate, Slate Chair Notification: ***This item was tabled for discussion due to time constraints.***
6. Financial Services (Eric Cannon)
 - USAP Funding Update: The budget office has approved us to be able to include the master's incentive for the current fiscal year, based on master's students who were self-funded. We have agreed on a 25% return for the amount that students paid in resident or non-resident tuition. In addition, we will also be able to stabilize the USAP funding allocations, so that they match the dollars per PhD level as last year.
 - Spending can begin now, and expect a memo to go out for review by the end of the week.

- Dean's USAP Allocation: ***This item was tabled for discussion due to time constraints.***
 - **ACTION: Chris will speak with the deans send an email out to the Graduate Group Chairs re: Dean's USAP Allocations.**

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

- Conflict Resolution Infrastructure Workgroup Update: A recommendation has been made with respect to, 'what to do when there is a conflict between graduate student and personnel.' GC endorses the recommendation that has been made, and will forward a draft memo on to stakeholders for review later this month.
- Course Modality Definition: GC is working to clarify the definition of what is considered an online course at both the undergraduate and graduate level.
- Spring 2022 Exception for Seminar Colloquium: GC has extended the exception which allows outside speakers to deliver talks remotely, through Spring 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 P.M.