

Graduate Group Chairs Meeting

Monday, November 22, 2021

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Graduate Group Chairs Present: John Abatzoglou, Chris Amemiya, Irene Beattie, Alberto Cerpa, YangQuan Chen, Chih-Chun Chien, Martha Conklin, Sidra Goldman-Mellor, Rowena Gray, Rowena Gray, Christine Isborn, Sarah Kurtz, Roummel Marcia, Paul Smaldino, Fred Wolf (QSB Representative)
Monica Garcia, Paul Roberts (Graduate Group Coordinators)
Sandie Ha (Graduate Council Vice-Chair)

Graduate Division Staff Present: Eric Cannon, Jesus Cisneros, Ashley Eagleson, Heath Jackson, Chris Kello, Will Lee-Ladouceur, Tania Macias, Maria Nishanian, Jennifer Quiralte, Jess Ventura,

MINUTES

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

- R1 Fellowship Solicitation: The Chancellor made available an extra \$1M for fellowships, to increase PhD admissions with the goal of graduating those PHD students in 5-6 years, and reaching R1 status around 2030. Please review the memo and corresponding FAQs that went out on 11/9/21, to solicit proposals for fellowships, to increase doctoral admission in AY 22-23. Feel free to email ckello@ucmerced.edu if you have any additional questions or concerns about the process for submitting your program's fellowship proposal.
- Ph Admissions Management: We are trying to get a gauge of how many students need funding for next year. We will continue to manage things at the group level, and understand that everyone is at varying levels of the process; however, we do need some sort of agreement made in order to meet PhD Admissions. Please do your best to send your figures to Interim Dean Kello as soon as you can (may be an estimate).
- Graduate Instructors for Spark Seminars: Spark Seminars can no longer be taught for extra compensation offload, for either lecturers or faculty. As a result, we are looking at the possibility of allowing graduate students to become Spark Seminar Instructors, as part of their pedagogical training. The deans are putting together a proposal to allow this and hope to have a draft out to you all for review soon.
 - **ACTION: Interim Dean Kello will speak with APO about whether this opportunity will also be open to Postdocs.**

2. Spring Faculty Mentorship Training (Maria Nishanian)

- Graduate Division will host 2 presenters from UMass to provide a 2-day, hands-on, mentorship training for faculty, April 8-9, 2022 (4hrs/day). The training is facilitated by Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research (CIMER) Master Facilitators, who will work with faculty to optimize research mentoring relationships, and to develop, build, and deliver customized workshops and curriculum for research mentors or mentees. For more information, visit <https://cimerproject.org/>.

- This initial training will be open to up to 35 faculty. For those who are unable to attend, Maria Nishanian and the Associate Dean will receive training to be able to host and facilitate these trainings more regularly on-campus.

3. Admissions & Academic Services (Tania Macias)

- Fall 2021 Graduation Application Numbers;
 - 41 PhD
 - 9 Masters Along the Way
 - 6 Mastering Out
- Fall 2022 Grad Application Numbers
 - 60 apps received to-date
 - 3 apps pending

4. Financial Services (Eric Cannon)

- Dean's USAP Allocation
 - USAP allocations are now complete, and everyone should have received an email with their allowances. If you have not received an email, please contact Eric Cannon, ecannon2@ucmerced.edu so that he can resend it. Allocations are set based on allocation amounts and then by actual expenditures. If there are any discrepancies, please let us know.
 - The master's incentive has been put in place, so some groups may have a larger amount of new additional dollars.
 - Faculty can now be informed of their budgets, but please inquire with the support staff to determine the dean's allocations for your school. See memo for more information.
 - Reminder: We will be accepting nominations for the AY 2022-23 Graduate Division Recruitment Fellowships in December. All nominations should be submitted in Slate via the review form, and are due by the end of January. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

5. Graduate Programming & Events (Jen Quiralte)

- Grad Visitation Weekend: There are no new updates at this time. We continue to move forward with a hybrid format, with GVW taking place the weekend of February 24-25, 2022. Graduate Group Chairs are asked to please email jquiralte@ucmerced.edu and Cc: jventura9@ucmerced.edu if your program would like to host candidate specific sessions, networking events, or bring outside speakers onto campus. More information to follow in the coming weeks.
 - **ACTION: Jen will look into the option of offering tours of the vernal pools reserve.**

6. Graduate Resources

- Grad EXCEL (Cassie Gunter)
- Graduate Professional Development Course CRF (Asmeret Asefaw Berhe).
- *This item was tabled for discussion due to time constraints.*

7. Recruitment Update (Jesus Cisneros, Jess Ventura)

- *This item was tabled for discussion due to time constraints.*

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

- Course Modality and Distance Learning Courses: there is a temporary pause on reviewing courses with online component until clear criteria for review is established. GC is working on this, and has an ongoing draft of these criteria in place. GC will continue to work on this process into Spring 2022, and plans to review course proposals with online or hybrid modality for Spring/Summer 2023. The new deadline for submission has been extended to March 7, 2022—see memo that went out earlier this month. If you do submit a proposal, please keep in mind that that supplemental questionnaire and definition of whether a course is online/hybrid may change.
- Please be sure to review the memo that went out this month re: Supervision of TAs and Teaching Fellows. It outlines the responsibility of various administrators in terms of supervising TAs and TF's, as well as the role of faculty in supervising TAs when the course is taught by a Teaching Fellow.
- Student IORs and Graduate Student Instructors: GC is in conversation about how to ensure that the employment of graduate student instructors is based on the benefit of the student, rather than solely on labor needs. GC is reviewing its policies to ensure that the employment of these students is benefitting their training.
 - GC is in conversation with CETL about the possibility of having a required teaching component be completed before they can become an IOR.
 - **ACTION: Sandie will take back to GC, Irene's suggestion to think of more flexible requirements/models other than CETL.**