

Graduate Group Chairs Meeting

Monday, December 20, 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, Will Lee-Ladouceur, 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, Tania Macias, Maria Nishanian, Jennifer Quiralte, Jess Ventura, Tsu Ya

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- This week, we will send out a doodle poll to schedule the Spring Graduate Group Chair monthly meetings. Please respond at your earliest convenience.
- This week, we will send out a call for Faculty List updates for Spring 2022. Please make your changes directly to the google sheet, or email them to aeagleson@ucmerced.edu

MINUTES

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

- Graduate Professional Development Course CRF Update: Until now, this GSTU 210 course has been taught by the Associate Graduate Dean, as a cross-listed course, listed across roughly 10 graduate programs. There has been conversation about whether this should become a stand-alone course, owned by the Graduate Division. This year, we have decided to submit a request to establish this course as a permanent course listing, and approvals are underway. We will notify the Graduate Group Chairs once the course is finalized. The expectation is to have it listed and available for all students to register for by Fall 2022.
- Commencement: Fall Commencement took place on Saturday, December 18, and it went exceptionally well. Interim Dean Kello thanked everyone who volunteered, as well as, thanked everyone for the part that they play in helping our PhD and Graduate Students be successful and get to the point of graduation.
- Spring Plans re: COVID-19: Omicron may cause a need for the campus to delay instruction, or hold classes remotely for the first couple of weeks, followed by in-person classes thereafter. We are focusing on measures such as mandating testing, vaccines, boosters, etc., but are still in the process of developing the language for those campus communications. More information to follow.
- R1 Fellowships: The R1 Fellowship proposal process has concluded, and everyone who submitted a fellowship proposal, has since been notified of their award status. There was a total of 26 fellowship proposals, \$1.7M in available funds, and each fellowship awardee received \$45K. Interim Dean Kello thanked everyone who submitted a proposal for review, as well as thanked the selection committee for the countless hours spent in review and discussion of each

submission. If anyone is unhappy with the outcome of their program's award or lack thereof, please feel free to reach out to the Dean.

2. Admissions & Academic Services (Tsu Ya, Tania Macias)

- Recruiting Additional Admits: Currently we have 515 in faculty review, with applications still rolling in.
- Graduation Application Numbers: 54 students applied for fall graduation, with 50 of them having submitted their degree clearing paperwork by the deadline, 2 who refiled for filing fee status, and 2 pending response.
- Enrollment: 453 students are registered for Spring 2022.

3. Recruitment (Jesus Cisneros, Jess Ventura)

- Jess sent an email out to several of the Graduate Group Chairs who had a priority deadline, informing them of who applied, and which students haven't submitted their applications yet. We ask that you please email those perspective students who have yet to complete their application, and ask that they submit it as soon as possible.
- Last year we had an excellent recruitment year in terms of overall applications. We did see a decrease by about 100 applications in comparison to last year, but compared to 2 years ago, we have surpassed that number by 200.
- There are two Information Sessions coming up;
 - Jan 10 → Admissions Process for Perspective Students
 - Jan 15 → 24-hour live chat
 - If you know of any students that have questions about Admissions, please feel free to refer them to Jess Ventura, jventura8@ucmerced.edu, and she will get them registered for these events.
 - More information, including sign up links, will be added to the website as well as emailed out in the coming weeks.
 - For questions regarding fee waiver codes, please feel free to email Jesus or Jess.

4. Graduate Programming & Events (Jen Quiralte)

- Virtual Graduate Visitation Days – VGVD will officially be held remotely due to continuing issues regarding staffing, travel and reimbursements, procurement processes, etc. We are moving forward with our 2-day format, like last year, as this is not only the safest option, but also the most reliable format at this time. Please feel free to email Jen Quiralte if you have any questions or need assistance with your program's schedule of events.

5. Financial Services (Chris Kello)

- Recruiting Fellowships and Timeline: We are accepting nominations for the AY 2022-23 [Graduate Division Recruitment Fellowships](#). These nominations, which are specifically for prospective Ph.D. students who apply by January 15, 2022, are due by Friday, January 28, 2022. These should be your TOP admissions applicants. Please review the email that went out on 12/17/21.
- Process for Nominating in Slate: 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 provided questions. In addition, if you are nominating a student for the Eugene Cota-Robles or Chancellor's Inclusive Excellence fellowship, please specify the ways in

which the student contributes to diversity, equity and inclusion in accord with UC Merced's mission (200-word max).

- Action: Eric Cannon will email an example of a nomination narrative for reference.

6. Graduate Resources (Cassie Gunter)

- Grad EXCEL: Cassie Gunter will email faculty later today, with mentor logs for the month of December.

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

- There is a pause in the review of online courses, since there are no clear review criteria to ensure pedagogical rigor, and the parody of experience for students in online courses. GC is working with various constituents to establish criteria and guidelines, and has come up with a rubric to further help address these concerns. The completion goal is early January 2022.
 - GC met with CETL this morning to establish resources for instructors who may want to propose a course with online component going forward.
- GC is still in conversation with UGC about the definition for online courses (i.e., hybrid vs online).
 - GC and CETL are leaning towards not having high-flex classes, because of the lack of infrastructure in place to support this model.
- Conflict Resolution Document Update: We are still waiting to hear back from everyone involved, but overall, the deans are concerned about staff involvement in this process of conflict resolution. In addition, some of the chairs are concerned about what we can do early on to prevent the problem from going too far down the pike.

8. Other Business (All)

- Sparks Seminars: an email communication will go out in the coming weeks with more information.
- Mentorship Training, April 2022: information flyer to go out early January.