

Graduate Group Chairs Meeting

Thursday, February 17, 2022

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Graduate Group Chairs Present: Chris Amemiya, Irene Beattie, Alberto Cerpa, YangQuan Chen, Chih-Chun Chien, Martha Conklin, Kevin Dawson, Brad LeVeck, Changqing Li, Sidra Goldman-Mellor, Rowena Gray, Martin Hagger, 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, Cassie Gunter, Heath Jackson, Chris Kello, Sara Mendoza, Maria Nishanian, Jennifer Quiralte, Jess Ventura, Tsu Ya

MINUTES

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

- R1 Fellowship Update: A total of 27 R1 Fellowships were disbursed to recruit new students and increase PhD Admissions, with the R1 goal of 150 doctoral degree conferrals by 2030. To date, we have received 17 commitment letters. For those who still need to submit, please do so as soon as possible.
 - If a student declines their offer, the faculty member may petition to transfer funds over to another admit, but it must be used for Admissions this year, and Graduate Division will need to be notified of this change.
- GSR Bargaining Update: GSRs are now represented by the union (separate bargaining unit from the TAs), which means there will be salary and step increases for GSRs moving forward.
 - Similar negotiations are also taking place with TAs, and they will run parallel to those of the GSRs.
 - Teaching Fellows and training fellowships will likely also become employees, but this is still being finalized.
- AGEP Solicitation Reminder: We are recruiting our second cohort of AGEP fellows, five at UC Merced and five at UC Santa Barbara. The program is for one year, starting Summer 2022, and it provides AGEP fellows with pedagogical training for teaching at diverse colleges and universities, along with academic job market preparation workshops and coaching. The call for applications went out to all graduate students on 1/26/22, so please encourage your students to apply by no later than Monday, February 21, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.
 - **ACTION: Ashley Eagleson-Renteria will forward the solicitation email re: Call for Applications-NSF AGEP California HSI Alliance Fellowships to the Graduate Group Chairs and Postdocs. COMPLETED 2/17/22.**
- Mentorship Training Reminder: 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 (2/year), with prioritization of Postdocs, Graduate Group Chairs, and Junior Faculty.

- Program open to everyone, of all disciplines.

3. Admissions & Academic Services (Tania Macias)

- Graduate Division Budget Call: There is a new budget process taking place this year, and so far, Graduate Division will be submitting an ask for additional writing support (i.e., Dissertation Bootcamp/Fellowship Writing). If chairs have suggestions on additional asks, please email Interim Dean Kello your feedback.
 - ACTION: Ashley Eagleson-Renteria will summarize the comments in the chat, and email them to Interim Dean Kello. COMPLETED 3/11/22.
 - ACTION: Eric Cannon will follow-up with Central Budget and Cc: Interim Dean Kello re: Issues with carryover funds not being included in this year's budget, and invited speakers not being paid for services.

2. Graduate Programming & Events (Jen Quiralte)

- Virtual Graduate Visitation Days, In-person Visitation Plan: Graduate Visitation Days continue to be held remotely as planned.
 - Graduate Division will support in-person visits on March 11, which includes the following;
 - Breakfast: 8-9:30am, SE2 Engineering Walk
 - Lunch: 11:30-1pm, SE2 Engineering Walk
 - Reception: 3:30-5pm, Amphitheater on Scholar's Lane
 - Interim Dean Kello polled the group on which programs would be hosting in-person students/events for VGVD.
 - Will: BIOE (Mar 4) CCB, ECON, MBSE (Feb), PSY, PHYS, QSB
 - Will Not: ES, MCS, ME
 - For those groups wanting additional offerings on March 11, please email Jen Quiralte or Jess Ventura as soon as possible. List of invited students will need to be received by no later than March 1.
 - Quick link to access VGVD sessions: <https://graduatedivision.ucmerced.edu/node/21111>
 - ACTION: Interim Dean Kello will speak with the Dean of SoE re: ES not having a School Coordinator.

3. Admissions & Academic Services (Tsu Ya)

- Applications & Admissions Update:
 - Admissions Numbers:
 - 939 total applications received
 - 186 admitted to-date
 - 31 SIRs
 - Based on our target numbers, we expect roughly 260 admits in total, which would put us at 30 more than last year.
 - Fall 2021 Graduation Numbers:
 - 51 students cleared (33 PhD, 18 Masters)
 - This number has significantly increased, which means it's clear the declines were due to COVID-19.
 - Enrollment Numbers:
 - 740 graduate students enrolled

4. Graduate Student Annual Reviews (Heath Jackson/Jesus Cisneros)
 - All Graduate Group Chairs received a call for Student Annual Reviews today, which included a link to the template that should be used by virtually all programs.
 - Heath will be out of office at the end of March through early April, so all questions and submissions will need to go through gradannualreviews@ucmerced.edu.
5. Financial Services (Eric Cannon)
 - Recruiting Fellowships: We are finishing up reviews now, so that awards can be announced next week, by Visitation Weekend.
 - Continuing Fellowships: Eric Cannon will send a follow-up email to the chairs, containing some updated information, as well as instructions on access the pool of applicants. Nominations will be due at the end of the month.
 - Summer Funding: For anything going into GRIP, please leave a note in the section marked “Other” stating, “I’m not sure what’s going on with this student—GSR/Fellowship?” which will indicate to our staff that we need to come back to it later, and move forward with processing.
 - **ACTION: Heath Jackson will email the summary and URLs from last year to Martha Conklin for ES.**
6. Recruitment (Jesus Cisneros, Jess Ventura)
 - Anti-Melt Campaign: After VGVD, we will begin focusing on an SIR Conversion Campaign, which consists of several webinars hosted by Graduate Division, in conjunction with OIA and/or the schools; in order to provide students with the information they need to SIR.
7. Graduate Resources (Cassie Gunter)
 - Faculty Careers Day was successful, with an engaged audience of 38 graduate students and Postdocs.
 - The Graduate Student Support Groups are now meeting in-person, and we hope to see an increase in attendance over the next few weeks.
 - Grad Excel is going well. Everyone has received their mentor logs to-date, and those participating can expect to hear from Cassie Gunter by next week.
8. Graduate Council Vice Chair’s Report (Sandie Ha)
 - Online Instruction Update: GC and UGC have finalized the approval review criteria, guidelines, and rubric for courses with online components.
 - The definition of course modality is still undefined, but by working definition;
 - In-person class: 1-33% online
 - Hybrid class: 33-67%
 - Online class: more than 67%
 - Emergency Educational Continuity Policy: DivCo voted in favor of declaring an emergency for Spring 2022, without the Emergency Course Continuity addendum. Given that our students have successfully returned to in-person classes this Spring, GC unanimously voted against the extension of the Emergency Educational Continuity during the first meeting of the semester.
 - Copywriting Course Materials: There has been discussion of academic integrity related to online course material sharing websites such as Course Hero, and Chegg. UCOP is now encouraging instructors to copyright their exams and assignments so that when these course materials are being inappropriately shared to these websites, we can ask that they be removed to prevent potential academic integrity issues.
 - **ACTION: Sandie will go back to GC and ask if an official memo will be drafted and shared with the schools re: copywriting course materials.**