

Graduate Group Chairs Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2020
9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. | SSB 250

Meeting Minutes

Graduate Group Chairs Present: Chris Amemiya, Irene Beattie, Anita Bhappu, Martha Conklin, Courtenay Conrad, Justin Cook, Gerardo Diaz, Sayantani Ghosh, Marcelo Kallmann, Sarah Kurtz, Roummel Marcia, Erik Menke, Jan Wallander, Irene Yen
Hrant Hratchian (Graduate Council Vice-Chair),

Graduate Division Staff Present: Eric Cannon, Ashley Eagleson, Heath Jackson, Chris Kello, Maria Nishanian, Jen Quiralte, Tsu Ya, Marjorie Zatz

Guest Presenters: Kurt Schnier (Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Budget), Jenny Xiang (Assessment Specialist)

1. Update on graduate student protests/strikes – 5 min – Marjorie

- a. Wildcat strikes continue to spread to other campuses.
- b. UC Merced graduate students have held two protests, but no strikes. The Chancellor, EVC/Provost, VCSA, and I have met with representatives of the GSA and the union about graduate student concerns broadly (not specific to TAs). Their concerns include the following:
 - i. Affordable Housing
 - ii. Food Security
 - iii. Parking & Transportation
 - iv. Mental Health
 - v. Campus Climate
 - vi. Funding for Fieldwork and Conferences
 - vii. Resources for Undocumented Students, International Students, and Graduate Students with Families

2. Debrief Graduate Visitation Weekend – 5 min – Jen

- a. GVW reception was very well received.
- b. Suggestions for next year:
 - i. Look into the cost of transportation to and from the airport and feasibility of providing transportation.
 - ii. Work with local vendors to serve craft beer.
 - iii. Discussion of Saturday activities. General sentiment is to expand offerings or don't advertise Saturday as part of the visitation event.

3. Annual Review of Students – 20 min – Marjorie/Jenny/Heath

- a. Presentation on the new student and faculty forms created for annual review of graduate students' progress. Reports would be archived in GRIP, with many elements accessible for analysis for other purposes (eg, assessment)

Action Item: Dean Zatz to email chairs "semi-final" wording.

Action Item: Any chairs interested in scheduling 1:1 time with Heath Jackson to review and customize the forms for their graduate program should email hjackson2@ucmerced.edu.

4. TA Marketplace – 10 min – Marjorie

- a. Item tabled until next meeting.

5. Update on Graduate Funding – 5 min – Kurt Schnier

- a. Slight revisions have been made to the graduate funding model, e.g., the individual return to faculty would come through IDC rather than graduate funding model.
- b. Master's Incentive – removed tiering on the master's program but added a (high) cap, above which the program would not receive additional return

Action Item: Kurt Schnier will be invited to the April GGC Meeting to discuss revisions and to finalize decisions on what to present to the Provost as a pilot model for the next few years.

6. Potential effects of Coronavirus on new enrollments – 5 min – Tsu

- a. We anticipate delays due to COVID-19 and recommend international admissions be submitted as quickly as possible for processing in case there are delays in visa processing.

7. Graduate Council – 5 min – Hrant Hratchian

- a. The deadline for continuing fellowships is approaching, and reviewers will be needed. Please start thinking about faculty who can help out.
- b. For each program, we will need to identify a Chair/Vice Chair who can give emergency approval to curriculum changes in case the campus is closed (eg, due to COVID-19 or fires).
- c. There were a number of inconsistencies across programs related to the Graduate Handbook and Graduate Group Policies and Procedures (P&Ps).
 - i. Senate staff will be scheduling time with the Graduate Support Staff to map out what is missing from P&Ps and Hrant Hratchian will report back in April.
 - ii. Moving forward, faculty will be asked to review P&Ps annually, to remain in line with Graduate Division and Graduate Council policies.

8. Other Topics for Discussion/Next Meeting – 10 min – Marjorie

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 A.M.