

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)
Annual Report 2021-22**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

Per Senate Bylaw 180, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) advises the University President and all agencies of the Senate on matters regarding research and learning related to graduate education. One of CCGA's chief responsibilities, as delegated by the Regents, is the authority to review and evaluate campus proposals for new graduate programs and schools that require approval of the President. In addition, CCGA establishes basic policies and procedures for coordinating the work of the various graduate councils and divisions, recommends to the Assembly minimum standards of admission for graduate students, reviews policies applied by graduate councils, reviews policies concerning relations with educational and research agencies, and approves UC graduate courses as system-wide courses to be listed in divisional catalogs.

Review of Proposed Graduate Degree Programs

During the 2021-22 academic year, CCGA approved nine program proposals and declined three. Four of the approved proposals were Self-Supporting Graduate Degree Programs (SSGPDPs), and one proposal had PDST (Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition). Of the three declined proposals, two were SSGPDPs and one was a 4+1 BS MS program. Ten proposals will carry over to the 2022-23 year. All of but one of these carryovers were received after June 1, and one, currently under review, was received mid-May.

Programs Decided Upon During the 2021-22 Year

Campus	Program	Date Received	Date Approved	SSGPDP
UCB	Pre-Proposal (College) – Computing, Data Science, and Society	7/13/21	10/26/21	No
UCB	Master of Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics	7/20/21	2/2/22	Yes
UCB	Master of Climate Solutions	3/21/22	7/6/22 (rejected)	Yes
UCB-UCSF	Joint PhD in Computational Precision Health	4/25/22	7/6/22	No
UCD	DNP Conversion to SSGPDP	3/24/22	5/25/22	Yes
UCI	PhD in Film and Media Studies	7/29/21	11/3/21	No
UCR	Microbiology BS/MS 4+1	6/9/21	1/5/22 (rejected)	No
UCSD	Dual Degree MAS in International Affairs	5/12/21	11/3/21	No
UCSD	PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics	6/29/21	10/6/21	No
UCSD	Eighth Undergraduate College	11/12/21	3/23/22	No
UCSD	MS in Precision Medicine	3/1/22	5/4/22 (rejected)	Yes
UCSF	Post-Bac DNP	4/25/22	6/1/22	No

The committee worked diligently with campuses and faculty throughout the year to help them craft and improve proposals that would meet the University’s expectations of excellence.

Proposals Under Review to be Carried Over to 2022-23

Campus	Program	Date Received	Status	SSGPDP
UCB	Master of Computational Social Sciences	6/17/22	On Hold Until October	Yes
UCB	College – Data Science and Society	6/16/22	On Hold Until October	No
UCI	Pre-Proposal School of Population and Public Health	6/24/22	On Hold Until October	No
UCLA	MS in Data Science in Biomedicine	5/10/22	Under Review	Yes
UCLA	Master of Data Science in Health	7/8/22	On Hold Until October	Yes
UCLA	Master of Legal Studies	6/14/22	Under Review	Yes
UCR	MS in Computational Data Science	6/6/22	Under Review	No
UCR	Divisional Status for Undergraduate Education	6/6/22	On Hold Until October	No
UCR	PhD in Astronomy	6/3/22	On Hold Until October	No
UCSC	MA in Geographic Information Systems, Spatial Technologies, Applications, and Research	7/6/22	On Hold Until October	No

Topics of Note During the 2021-22 Year

COVID-19 and Committee Meetings

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the committee met remotely during the entire 2021-22 year. Despite this, CCGA was able to efficiently complete its work of reviewing proposals and also was able to undertake several larger issues.

Senate/Administration Workgroup on Proposal Review and Approval Processes

For some time, some campuses have expressed an interest in eliminating systemwide Senate and Administration review of master’s degree proposals, and at the end of the 2020-2021 academic year, Provost Brown raised the possibility of reconsidering systemwide review of some master’s degree program proposals. In response, the Academic Planning Council (APC, a joint Academic Senate and Administration committee) formed a workgroup to evaluate current review processes for master’s degrees.

The workgroup was tasked with reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of review processes at the divisional and systemwide levels, considering the risks and benefits of devolving final approval of master’s degrees to the individual campuses, and assessing whether updated disestablishment processes ought to be considered. The workgroup was given access to a variety of data pertaining to past reviews. These data included a summary of campus review processes, campus review timelines, CCGA review timelines, the recent report of the CCGA/UCPB workgroup on self-supporting graduate professional degree programs (SSGPDPs), documentation related to rejected degree proposals, and documentation of improvements made to proposals through the CCGA review process.

After evaluating and discussing the efficiency and effectiveness of the review process and weighing its potential benefits against the risks and liabilities of devolving approval to the divisions, the workgroup concluded that there is value in systemwide review of master's degree programs, and that the current process of degree proposal review should remain in place, as there was no consensus on either radical revision of the approval process (i.e., devolving approval authority to the divisions) or more incremental reform (e.g., allowing divisions to conduct external reviews). The systemwide review process reinforces academic quality, equity across campuses, and in the case of SSGPDPs, financial soundness. The full [report](#) contains significant data and discussion.

GSR Unionization

The UC Student Researchers United was a campaign to form a union to improve working conditions for student researchers. They submitted more than 17K signed authorization cards. The Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) verified around 11K signatures, and they are currently in discussion with the UC to define the members of the union. People with GSR or GSA titles are covered, but the question is whether people with outside fellowship or traineeships would be included. The committee had questions and discussed this topic.

In July 2022, CCGA submitted a [letter](#) to Council on this issue asking the Senate to convene a workgroup to investigate and analyze the graduate education funding model. Council endorsed the letter and submitted it – along with a similar letter from UCORP – to the Provost at the end of July.

Remote TA/GSI Work

During the first year of the Covid pandemic, most instruction and classroom participation was conducted virtually, via online platforms. When classes resumed in-person, many TAs and GSIs requested that they continue to be able to work remotely for reasons other than medical accommodation. Policies and procedures on remote instruction vary from campus to campus. CCGA discussed whether or not there should be systemwide guidance regarding remote instruction and remote work for TAs and GSIs. CCGA concluded that pedagogy should be the driving force for whether or not to consider remote instruction, but acknowledges that many outside factors (e.g. lack of affordable housing) may be influencing these decisions. CCGA is concerned about the pressure on local graduate councils (and other Senate committees) to make these decisions and believes systemwide guidance may be helpful.

In December 2021, CCGA submitted a letter to Council asking that it endorse a memo affirming that the UC system is primarily a residential university and that pedagogy be the driving force for the adoption of new modalities of instruction. It also recommended that the divisional Senates employ procedures for the approval of courses for remote instruction (if they have not yet done so), and that approval for remote instruction should be based on pedagogy. If accommodations to allow remote instruction must be made for other reasons, it urged the divisional Senates to set clear policies to prevent there being disparities between individual departments. Council [endorsed](#) the letter and the memo and sent it to the divisions later that month.

Impacts of Oracle on the Merced and San Diego Campuses

In July 2022, CCGA sent a [letter](#) to Academic Council about the profoundly negative effects experienced on the Merced and San Diego campuses as a result of the implementation of the Oracle financial software system. The letter included four specific requests to be addressed by UCOP. These requests included developing systems to make the Oracle system more responsive to the needs of the campuses, increased staffing in business operations and IT, financial support for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars at UCM and UCSD, and – going forward – considerably improved consultation with the campuses before

any other such “improvements” are made. Council endorsed the letter and – combined with an October memo from UCORP – sent it to the President at the end of July.

Effects of Covid-19 on Graduate Student Researchers

In conjunction with the Council of Graduate Deans, CCGA wrote a [letter](#) to Academic Council in July 2022, regarding the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on GSRs. Council endorsed the letter and sent it to the President at the end of July.

Native Affiliation Fraud

CCGA considered the issue of Native American affiliation fraud. The existence and tolerance of scholars who have committed such fraud have a unique impact on graduate students; students find themselves questioning the research methods they have learned as well as their own judgment, and students who want to expose fraudulence are put in the position of questioning their own advisers and faculty as well as the entire institution. Furthermore, many Native American and/or Native American studies undergraduate students are no longer considering applying to graduate school. The committee began drafting a letter to submit to Council on the issue; the letter will be submitted in the fall.

Acknowledgements

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Respectfully submitted,

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