

## Graduate Council Agenda

**Date:** Monday, February 2nd

**Time:** 3-4pm

**Location:** Fishbowl (Library LIB 209) and [Zoom](#),

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### 1. Announcements and Updates

- Welcome and introduction - Samantha Williams
- Graduate Thesis Policy
- GA/TA Waivers

Interim Provost Shawna Young requested GA/TA Waivers for next AY. Twenty-seven GA/TA Waivers were granted for this AY. There is a reasonable expectation that President Carvajal will grant a comparable amount for next AY. More details available this week. Andrew Kinzinger asked if there is a waiver policy change on the horizon. Heather Madar suspects the answer is yes, but said there may be lag time due to recent leadership turnover. When meeting attendees were asked to share their opinions on the decoupling of SUGS and waivers, there was some support for the decoupling. Andrew responded that a definitive list of qualifications would be helpful, as the rules have been *generally murky*. Heather said the College Dean's group has waiver questions as well. The waiver discussion will continue in the Dean's group, then be put back on the Grad Council agenda for next month.

- Admissions update

Many Graduate Programs had a Fall 26 application deadline of February 1st. Due to a technical difficulty, some applicants are missing application documents (not due to applicant error). If Grad Coordinators find they have applicants with missing documentation, or if applicants contact Grad Departments about missing documentation, inquiries should be directed to Chelsea Mooney in Graduate Admissions. In other news, Admissions has a small number of application fee waivers. If interested in providing an application fee waiver, send a request to the Grad Studies Office. The waivers available through Admissions are separate from the waivers that are purchased and distributed by individual Departments.

- Upcoming dates and deadlines:
  - i. February 2nd (today!) - Last day to file application for Advancement to Candidacy & Graduation for Summer or Fall 2026 graduation. After this date a late fee will apply. Add/drop deadline. Deadline to apply for educational leave or Graduate Continuous Enrollment. -

Students may submit an ATC Form after the deadline, though they may not appear in the printed commencement program. Spring 26 commencement sign-ups open late February/early March. Students must have a completed ATC on file to apply to walk.

- ii. [McCrone Graduate Fellowship](#): February 26th
- iii. [McConkey Outstanding Graduate Student Awards](#): February 13th
- iv. [Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program](#): February 16th
- v. [California Pre-doctoral Program](#): February 13th

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## 2. Graduate Application Review report out (Rose Francia)

Rose Francia described the Career Center's recent Grad School Resume/CV Drop-In event held on January 30th in LIB 308. Eight work stations were available for one-on-one review. In an exit survey students reported feeling better prepared after attending the event. With more planning and organizing going into future events, there is opportunity to pair students and reviewers by academic commonality. Rose introduced Dr. Kyte, the Associate Director of McNair, who had participated as a reviewer. Dr. Kyte felt the event was *well-done* and invited Graduate Coordinators/Faculty to join the reviewer pool. Rose was asked if review events will continue to be geared towards undergrad students. Rose said there is room to tailor application review to masters students that are PHD-bound, and that Dr. Kyte is skilled in advising potential PHD students.

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## 3. Grad Faculty Fellows - Carrie Aigner and Mary Virnoche

Mary Virnoche was unable to attend, but Carrie Aigner shared what she is working on this year as a Grad Faculty Fellow.

- Tailoring grad programs and making sure they are advertised
- Expanding opportunities available to grad students
- Bringing in speakers
- Helping students network and connect with employers
- Creating a shared physical space for grad students

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## 4. Grad Slam

- o CSU wide virtual [Grad Slam](#) is May 1st at CSU Fullerton

A date has not been selected for the Cal Poly Humboldt Grad Slam leading into the CSU-wide virtual Grad Slam. Heather asked meeting attendees if there was any interest in conducting a Humboldt Grad Slam this year. If so, when? Pam Bowers explained that Social Work students may not fit the mold for Grad Slam because they do not prepare a thesis for their culminating experience. Pam asked if the call to participate could be expanded so students conducting research for projects or preparing for exams may participate as well. Heather posted the call from last year in the Zoom chat. Heather noted that the language seemed broad, but could possibly be expanded so long as it still met CSU System standards. Heather also floated the idea of having a side format to the Grad Slam in which students could showcase their research without the confines of competition. Janelle Adsit asked why Grad Slam has not been incorporated into IdeaFest. Heather posited that IdeaFest happens too late in the Spring for students to be nominated to participate in the system-wide Grad Slam. Jamie Lancaster supported the side format idea since it would provide all Grad students the opportunity to present and get feedback. The question of incentive was raised: What is the incentive to participate in Grad Slam when students are already so busy? Michihiro Sugata said participation appears to be a light load for two-year students who have already been preparing to present their work, and that the value is in students learning how to articulate. Heather closed the Grad Slam discussion by committing to revisit at a further date.

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## 5. Graduate Student Professional Development fund

- [Draft application form](#)

Heather introduced the Graduate Student Professional Development fund, first explaining that the funding does not come at the cost of other operational budget sources but comes from funds earmarked for specific uses. The award is modeled after an award given by the College of Professional Studies. Andrew Kinziger spoke positively of the new award opportunity and asked what likelihood students might have to receive the award. Heather explained that the first application/award process is a pilot program, but suggested that Justus Ortega might be able to provide some insight based on the CPS award. One concern was whether or not the awarded students would have to arrange travel through Concur. Heather confirmed that Concur will not be involved and that awarded funds will go directly to students.

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## 6. Spring 2026 Graduate student event

Heather asked meeting attendees to provide suggestions for future grad student events. Heather has heard that grad students feel overlooked and are interested in attending events that encourage cross-program socializing. Jamie Lancaster suggested an evening event in the vein of recent Alumni events. Carrie Aigner suggested combining a lunch with a professional development opportunity, like a lunch with job talks. Janelle Adist suggested creating a grad student listserv so grad students can invite each other to talks and support each other.

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Finally, Heather would like to invite President Carvajal to a Grad Council meeting, but he is unavailable on Monday afternoons. Heather asked meeting attendees to express their interest in attending a meeting with President Carvajal at an irregular time by way of a thumbs-up. There were enough positive responses for Heather to commit to scheduling the meeting before the end of the semester.