

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING OF ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

February 22, 2024

MINUTES OF MEETING

**I. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Pursuant to the call, the Assembly of the Academic Senate met on Thursday, February 22, 2024. Academic Senate Chair James Steintrager presided and called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Senate Executive Director Monica Lin called the roll of Assembly members and confirmed a quorum. Attendance is listed in Appendix A of these minutes.

**II. MINUTES**

**ACTION: The Assembly approved the minutes of December 7, 2023.**

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SENATE LEADERSHIP**

- **James Steintrager, Chair**
- **Steven Cheung, Vice Chair**

Department Statements: A proposed Board of Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites is currently under systemwide Senate review. The policy would disallow department members from sharing personal opinions on the main landing pages of department administrative websites. It also mandates that any opinions expressed on other parts of the websites include a disclaimer clarifying that they do not represent the official views of the University or the department.

The policy originally appeared on the January 24 agenda of the joint meeting of the Regents' Academic and Student Affairs Committee and Compliance and Audit Committee as an action item for adoption by the full Board. The Academic Council expressed concerns about the process leading to this action and requested an opportunity for a Senate review in time for discussion at the Regents meeting March 19-21, which was granted. Academic Council will schedule a special meeting in March to discuss the policy.

Equitable Student Employment Opportunities: In January, the Regents voted to suspend for one year a policy that would have permitted undocumented students to hold paying jobs at UC. This decision stemmed from concerns about the legal viability of the policy proposal and its potential risks for the University and its community members. In the absence of such a policy, the University will explore the expansion of experiential learning programs and fellowships that will provide additional financial aid to undocumented students.

Senate Regulation 630.E: At a special February 14 meeting, the Regents voted to disapprove Senate Regulation (SR) 630.E, a systemwide "campus experience" requirement for the conferral of an undergraduate degree, and to reaffirm campus autonomy over undergraduate degree program requirements. The regulation, approved by the Assembly in February 2023, aimed to close a loophole in Senate regulations that would allow the creation of fully online undergraduate

degree programs without oversight. The Regents determined that, within the Senate's delegated authority, this regulation constituted a recommendation to the Board. The Regents exercised its reserved rights over curriculum and took action on SR 630.E during the meeting. That they voted down a Senate recommendation without any meaningful dialogue has raised concerns about protocol and shared governance.

*Chair Steintrager stated that as the result of the Regents' action, Senate Regulations 630 and 610 in the Manual of the Systemwide Academic Senate will revert to their previous wording, effective immediately. (An additional revision had been made to Senate Regulation 610 defining academic residency to align it with the new Senate Regulation 630.E.)*

Presidential Task Force: Vice Chair Cheung is co-chairing a Presidential Task Force on Instructional Modalities and UC Quality Undergraduate Degree Programs. This task force is charged with determining, among other things, how to assess UC quality undergraduate education across various instructional modalities and the resources that would be required to support UC quality fully online undergraduate degree programs. Specifically, the task force will explore the viability of fully online degree pilots targeted at specific populations, including students who previously discontinued their studies at UC.

A-G Ethnic Studies Admissions Requirement (Area H): The Senate is reviewing a proposed revision to Senate Regulation 424.A.3 presented by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS). The amendment introduces a non-additive A-G ethnic studies requirement (Area H) for freshman admission to the University. The proposal was revised in response to Academic Council comments following an initial systemwide Senate review in winter 2020-21. It includes an updated set of course criteria and guidelines for Area H, developed by BOARS' Ethnic Studies Implementation Workgroup, which outlines UC's expectations for Area H.

Mathematics Admissions Requirement (Area C): The BOARS Area C Workgroup's (ACW) Stage 1 report focuses on the types of high school math courses that qualify as "advanced mathematics" for UC preparation. BOARS Chair Knowlton summarized its two main recommendations: 1) only higher-level math courses that include substantial advanced algebra content and include lower-level math coursework as prerequisites can validate (substitute for) an Algebra II/ Math III course; statistics courses will no longer be an appropriate substitute; and 2) the fourth-year course should extend math knowledge past the content of the foundational Area C courses (Algebra I-Geometry-Algebra II or Mathematics I-II-III). BOARS hopes the recommendations will help students select math courses that best prepare them for UC.

Academic Congresses: Provost Newman hosted a systemwide academic congress on graduate education in early October and a one-day online conference in January focused on undergraduate instruction. Upcoming events include a congress on the future of artificial intelligence on February 29 and a congress on the future of online education in May. Themes for congresses planned for the following year will include research, academic freedom, and Hispanic-serving institutions.

UC Budget: The governor's proposed budget for 2024-25 defers for one year the 5% increase in new ongoing support that UC expected to receive as part of the multi-year compact with the

State. This increase is now proposed for inclusion in the 2025-26 budget as a 10% increase. As of now, the faculty salary plan is expected to move forward.

***During the discussion:***

- An Assembly member expressed concerns about the limited distribution of the Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites on some campuses. There were also concerns regarding the ambiguity surrounding what constitutes an “opinion” under the policy, as well as the potential for further changes to the draft policy before its hearing before the Board of Regents.
- Questions were raised regarding the motivation behind the Regents’ opposition to Senate Regulation 630.E. Chair Steintrager and University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) Chair Cocco summarized differing perspectives on the role of online education and its potential implications for UC. Chair Steintrager explained that individual regents, chancellors, and administrators believe that fully online undergraduate degrees could enhance access to the University, alleviate enrollment pressures, generate new revenues, and diminish the need for physical infrastructure. Furthermore, they argue that the regulation hampers pedagogical innovation and hinders the creation of new programs that could achieve these objectives. Conversely, the Senate contends that access to campus experiences and resources is integral to a UC-quality education and is also an equity concern. UCEP Chair Cocco added that many online undergraduate degree programs exhibit low completion rates, engage in predatory inclusion practices, and lack mechanisms to uphold academic integrity. Additionally, it was noted that fully online degrees could foster unhealthy competition between campuses and potentially disadvantage less selective UC campuses. Finally, developing quality online degree programs will require significant investment in new infrastructure.

**IV. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**A. Academic Council**

**▪ James Steintrager**

**1. Proposed Revision to Senate Bylaw 55**

At its December 2023 meeting, following a systemwide Academic Senate review, the Academic Council approved revisions to Senate Bylaw 55. The revisions were proposed by the University Committee on Academic Personnel (UCAP). They would uniformly extend voting rights to Teaching Professors/Lecturers with Security of Employment (LSOEs) within their departments across the UC system. At present, those in the LSOE series may vote only on personnel matters related to colleagues in their own series, but not on those in the Professor series unless approved by a two-thirds vote within a department.

Opinions among Senate reviewers were divided. Advocates for the policy argued that the revisions would enhance the equity of departmental governance structures, uplift morale, and acknowledge the expertise of LSOEs who fulfill the same tripartite mission as those in the Professor series, albeit with different distributions of responsibilities. Opponents contended that the distinctions between the two series are significant enough in their distribution of the tripartite mission that LSOEs should not have voting rights on personnel matters related to the Professor

series. They also argued for the retention of departmental autonomy in determining voting rights and the dangers of a one-size-fits-all approach.

**MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to endorse the proposed revisions to Bylaw 55.**

***During the discussion:***

- Assembly members described individual departmental practices regarding LSOE/Teaching Professor voting rights. Several voiced support for the change, citing the recent modification to Academic Personnel Manual 285 aligning review criteria for LSOEs with the Professor series. They noted that in certain departments, there exists no substantive difference in research expectations and practices between LSOEs and professors. Some LSOEs possess significant research expertise, and some have academic publications surpassing those of their Professor series colleagues. The proposed change aims to promote equity by amplifying the voice of the increasing number of LSOEs. Advocates emphasized that every faculty member deserves fundamental rights, including voting, and underscored the broader mission of the University beyond research.
- Others noted that LSOEs and professors diverge significantly in their research activities, and they questioned the capacity of LSOEs to effectively evaluate research in merit and promotion reviews for professors in specific departments and fields. There was apprehension that departments may have hired LSOEs under the expectation that they would not have voting rights, and altering the regulation could have unforeseen implications for departmental dynamics and hiring practices. It was suggested that individual units should retain autonomy to determine voting rights to avoid potential shifts in the University's nature stemming from hiring incentives favoring LSOEs over Professor series faculty. Given the diversity of campus and department approaches, a one-size-fits-all policy is not sensible.

**MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to table the item until the next Assembly meeting.**

- Supporters of the motion highlighted that postponing would allow for further discussion and analysis. Members also requested data regarding the number of LSOEs affected on each campus by the proposed bylaw change.

**ACTION: The Assembly passed the motion 28-16.**

**VI. UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY WELFARE REPORT [None]**

**VII. SPECIAL ORDERS [None]**

**IX. REPORTS ON SPECIAL COMMITTEES [None]**

**X. PETITIONS OF STUDENTS [None]**

**XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS [None]**

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm

Minutes Prepared by: Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director, Academic Senate

Attest: James Steintrager, Academic Senate Chair

Attachments: Appendix A – Assembly Attendance Record, Meeting of February 22, 2024

**Appendix A – 2023-2024 Assembly Attendance Record  
Meeting of February 22, 2024**

**President of the University:**

Michael Drake (absent)

Bert Winther-Tamaki

**Academic Council Members:**

James Steintrager, Chair  
Steven Cheung, Vice Chair  
Maximilliam Aufhammer, Chair, UCB  
Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair, UCD  
Arvind Rajaraman, Chair, UCI  
Andrea Kasko, Chair, UCLA  
Matt Hibbing, Chair, UCM  
Sang-Hee Lee, Chair, UCR  
John Hildebrand, Chair, UCSD  
Steven Hetts, Chair, UCSF  
Susannah Scott, Chair, UCSB  
Patricia Gallagher, Chair, UCSC  
Barbara Knowlton, Chair, BOARS  
Dean Tantillo, Chair, CCGA  
Jennifer Burney, Chair, UCAADE (absent)  
Stefano Profumo, Chair, UCAP  
Melanie Cocco, Chair, UCEP  
John Heraty, Chair, UCFW (absent)  
Cynthia Schumann, Chair, UCORP  
Donald Senear, Chair, UCPB (absent)

**Los Angeles (7)**

Mekonnen Gebremichael (absent)  
Tim Groeling  
Ronald D. Hays  
Jody Kreiman  
Reynaldo Macias (absent)  
Moritz Meyer-ter-Vehn  
Robert Zeithammer (absent)

**Merced (1)**

Shilpa Khatri

**Riverside (2)**

Y. Peter Chung (absent)  
Jennifer Hughes

**San Diego (5)**

Niloofer Afari  
Kimberly Cooper (absent)  
Randy Hampton  
Gabriella Caballero Hernandez  
Deborah Stein

**Berkeley (5)**

Mark Goble  
Tyrone Hayes  
Lisa Wymore (absent)  
Jelani Nelson  
Dean Toste

**San Francisco (5)**

Ifeyinwa Asiodu  
Robin Corelli  
David Hwang  
Kewchang Lee  
Soo-Jeong Lee

**Davis (6)**

Joseph Chen  
Walter Leal  
Abigail Thompson  
Richard Tucker  
Rena Zieve  
Karen Zito

**Santa Barbara (3)**

Charles Akemann  
Joao Hespanha  
Elinor Mason (absent)

**Irvine (4)**

Liz Chrastil (alt for Noah Askin)  
John Crawford  
Zeev Kain

**Santa Cruz (2)**

Matthew McCarthy  
Rita Mehta (absent)

**Secretary/Parliamentarian**

Andrew Dickson