

## COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

**Minutes of Meeting**

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

**I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes**

**Action Taken:** *The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed with one change from the analyst, 9-0-0.*

**II. Chair's Report**

*Chair Erith Jaffe-Berg*

The Chair took a moment to introduce the new member from the Berkeley campus.

Chair Jaffe-Berg remarked that the strike is finally over, and the campuses and faculty are all relieved. There is a sense of moving forward and also some discussion about thinking creatively about graduate education and funding models. This might be something that will be brought to CCGA in the future.

On January 9, the University will have a new Provost, Katherine Newman. CCGA is working to have her join a committee meeting later in the year.

AB 928 and the IGETC/Cal-GETC pathways were discussed at Assembly. Cal-GETC went through a significant agreement process with both CSU and the community colleges. It was approved with a few small changes. It will come online in 2025 if it is approved by all three segments. Provost Brown was at Assembly, and he discussed this period of time as a “model disrupting moment” due to the pandemic, the strike, enrollment challenges, and financial turbulence. EVP Brostrom spoke about the need for adding new housing; there is an anticipated need for 30-40,000 new beds in the years ahead. Also discussed was the renewed interest in a joint student/faculty/administrative task force to work on graduate funding models. This might provide opportunities for examination of other ways to improve graduate education.

This month saw the last budget call with Provost Brown. Much of the discussion was about the strike. There was also a report from SGR about how UC is anticipating less state revenue. The Compact with the governor is in place which guarantees a five percent increase in funding as long as the University meets certain targets.

The Regents' meeting featured an announcement that staff will see a 4.6 percent wage increase. Staff overload and needs are being better addressed and it is hoped that this increase will help with retention.

UC Online is looking at resuscitating the language consortium for students who need education in a language that is less-often taught. Program Director Osmundson is putting together a list of all the language options available; this will be very relevant for PhD students.

Academic Council was largely preoccupied with the strike. However, it had a report from the UCFW task force regarding behavioral health and wellness, which continues to be an issue for UC. It looks as if there will be more mental health resources provided and some efforts will be

made to have more providers take insurance. Telehealth options are also being investigated. Council approved the report and is forwarding it to the Provost's Office.

### **III. Vice Chair's Report**

*Vice Chair Dean Tantillo*

The Vice Chair was unable to attend the meeting.

### **IV. Campus Reports**

UCB – The campus had nothing to report.

UCD – The campus is short on analysts. The graduate council normally has three analysts, but it currently has just one

UCI – The GC has been asked to review the *in absentia* policy and the fair use of campus resources.

UCLA – All campus discussions have been around the strike and related issues (federal grants, paying for GSRs, etc.)

UCM – The campus continues to work on a survey for its students regarding how they have been impacted by the pandemic, by the implementation of the Oracle system, and by extensive campus building closures. The campus also held its first separate graduate student commencement.

UCR – The campus discussed the strike and the perceived lack of preparedness for many of the issues related to it such as reporting time for graduate students. The campus also has been holding discussions about remote exam policies.

UCSD – The campus has been preoccupied with the strike. Now that it is over, the campus needs to determine how it's going to deal with the 299 courses for graduate students that are paid as GSRs and how the campus is going to delineate between what is paid work and what is academic training.

UCSF – The UCSF Graduate Council sent a letter regarding the impact of UAW negotiations at UCSF to Executive Council, and it was discussed at the December EXC meeting. EXC will be sending a letter to the Chancellor's Office regarding this issue soon.

UCSB – The campus has been focused on the strike. It is important that CCGA take up the question of the delineation of academic effort versus work. Santa Barbara did not support ratification of the contract, and as a result has heard rumors about possible wildcat strikes.

UCSC – The campus has had a task force operating for a little over a year on two aspects of graduate student wellness and life: one on quality of life, and one on funding. The report of the task force will be released soon.

### **V. Announcements from Academic Affairs**

*Scott Brandt, AVP for Research and Innovation*

*Pamela Jennings, Exec. Director of Graduate Studies*

*Todd Greenspan, Director of Academic Planning*

*Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst*

AVP Brandt introduced himself to the committee. He remarked that his office was very concerned about payment for grant-funded students. The negotiators brought this up the topic repeatedly. Either UC can have fewer graduate students, or it can fund them for less money. It is a zero-sum game. Faculty can possibly write bigger grants or make fewer commitments to their students. However, there is a current cohort of students for whom a solution must be found, and that solution is not obvious.

Mr. Brandt said that he and Vice President Maldonado have a similar vision for research systemwide. In the past, UC had done some significant systemwide research, but as the campuses got bigger, they went their own ways. However, there are things that can be done as a system that cannot be done at individual divisions. Both he and VP Maldonado want to find a way to focus that energy on some key problems; she is looking to him to help provide some leadership in this area. There is \$85M directed to three campuses (Riverside, Santa Cruz, and Merced) and \$100M that is for climate research more broadly. His office is in the process of running the competition for funds, and he is excited to see the proposals that will be submitted. Another project his office is working on is ARCHES (the Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems). The DOE has \$8B call for regional hydrogen hubs; UC has put forward a proposal to the DOE to get these funds to California. His office is also trying to reinvigorate the relationship between UC and legislature. The Regents' Committee on Innovation and Entrepreneurship put out a report about how to revamp UC systemwide and it had a number of recommendations including devolving considerable responsibility to the campuses instead of holding it centrally. Another big task is to update the patent software system, which is woefully out of date.

Executive Director Jennings said that she shared the frustrations expressed in the campus reports and that there will be many meetings in the future to determine how to move forward. The work of CCGA and CoGD can help to elevate issues surrounding graduate education. The new Provost is starting fresh and is aware of the situation UC faces. Now that the strike is over, a new phase of deep and complex work will begin.

Director Greenspan said that the fall 2022 enrollment has been published: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/fall-enrollment-glance> and shared his screen. He said that year over year, UC has declined about 300 graduate students. California resident graduate students went down roughly 3000, non-resident domestic students went up about 1000, and non-resident international students also went up about 1000. The legislature wants UC to prioritize California students. There are four years left with the governor's Compact; it stipulates that the University must grow 2,500 state-supported graduate students, which is roughly 600 per year. However, this agreement was made before the strike. Members had questions for Director Greenspan.

Analyst Procello told the committee that his office had a meeting with State Government Relations. They shared that UC has four perennial issues with the state: labor issues, DEI, budgetary accountability, and administrative bloat.

## **VI. Council of Graduate Deans' Report**

*Dean Jean-Pierre Delplanque*

The CoGD has consistently promoted the good practice of setting expectations clearly and explicitly for the academic work that graduate students do for research units ("299 units"). It is even more important in the new context of the recent collective bargaining agreements. UC needs to distinguish between academic milestones (good academic progress) and employment deliverables, understanding that work performed can serve both the attainment of an academic milestone and the completion of a deliverable.

## **VII. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership**

*Susan Cochran, Academic Senate Chair*

*James Steintrager, Academic Senate Vice Chair*

Senate Chair Cochran remarked that the last Regents' meeting was disrupted by striking workers. Once it was back in session, the Board decided to allow UCLA to move to the Big 10. However, they also required UCLA to put aside money to support student athletes at UCB. This sets a precedent that if one campus does something that tangibly harms another campus, then that campus is held to making the injured campus whole.

Chair Cochran told the committee that the University will be welcoming a new provost on Monday. Incoming-provost Newman has been sitting in on meetings with Provost Brown for the past couple of weeks.

The Chair said that the settling of the strike is not the end of the University's labor issues. Just before the winter closure, AVP Haynes sent out guidance regarding the certification of work by personnel. This is a way to protect UC from problems when it is audited by federal agencies. Federal regulations prohibit payment when work is not done. The Senate followed up on this guidance by asking PIs to be sure to certify work accurately. In situations where the work cannot be certified, the charges will be placed on an unrestricted source until things can be sorted out. She said that there will also be a memo coming out that will ask student employees to attest to their work hours during the strike. Ultimately, people who did not work during the strike are going to be docked pay. There is some discussion about trying to give GSRs and TAs a chance to make up the hours where possible, but now that the grades have been submitted, there is not much opportunity to make up that work. Faculty are also going to be asked to complete an attestation form. Faculty who withheld labor cannot be paid under Regents' policy.

Members had considerable questions and there was discussion.

## **VIII. New Program Proposals**

### **A. Proposal for a PhD in Astronomy on the Riverside Campus**

*Lead Reviewer: Michael Scheibner*

The Lead Reviewer has received three reports. The reviewers are in favor of the program and feel that it is very vigorous and is UC quality. Professor Scheibner will load the reports onto SharePoint, and the committee will vote via email

### **B. Proposal for a College of Data Science and Society on the Berkeley Campus**

*Lead Reviewer: Andrei Goga*

The Lead Reviewer emailed that he had received four reviews and will have the summary recommendation prepared before the February meeting.

### **C. Proposal for a MA in Geographic Information Systems, Spatial Technologies, Applications, and Research on the Santa Cruz Campus**

*Lead Reviewer: Jennifer Smith*

The Lead Reviewer has three reviewers secured and has received one review, which is positive.

- D. Courtesy (unofficial) Review: Gallo School of Management on the Merced Campus  
*Lead Reviewer: Andrew Fisher*  
The Lead Reviewer has four reviewers secured and has received two reviews. Both are quite thoughtful and broadly supportive.
- E. Master of Advanced Study in Engineering on the Berkeley Campus [SSGPDP]  
*Lead Reviewer: Michelle O'Malley*  
The Lead Reviewer has received two reviews for her proposal and is waiting on responses from two other reviewers. The two reviews that have been received express some concerns.
- F. Pre-Proposal for a School of Computing Information and Data Science on the San Diego Campus  
*Lead Reviewer: Paul Macey*  
The Lead Reviewer reported via email that he has received one written report and had a telephone conversation with another reviewer. Both support the pre-proposal, but both also have some concerns.
- G. Proposal for a Master of Management Program on the Davis Campus [SSGPDP]  
**Action Taken: Tanya Nieri was assigned as Lead Reviewer.**
- H. Proposal for a 4+1 Program in Microbiology on the Riverside Campus  
**Action Taken: Edmund Campion was assigned as Lead Reviewer.**

**IX. UC Irvine FEMBA Program**

The Chair explained that this program was proposing a modification that primarily involves modality change and a program name change. She said that CCGA needed to determine if the modality change (which would also affect the content) was something that needed substantive review at the systemwide level. The committee discussed the proposed change, and it was determined that the Chair would draft a letter of response to Irvine and would circulate it for review and input before sending to the campus.

**X. Language/Terminology Pertaining to Online Education**

The Chair told the committee that language pertaining to types of online education (e.g., “remote,” “hybrid,” “mixed-modality,” etc.) is not being used in a uniform manner across the campuses. It would serve the University- and be helpful to CCGA – if UC had agreed-upon definitions that were used systemwide. The Chair proposed that CCGA work with UCEP to consider standardization of terminology related to online education. Analyst Harms asked that members send her any campus guidelines they might have so that she can compile a document that outlines current use at the divisions.

**XI. Update: MRU Reviews**

*Tanya Nieri, UCR*  
*Frithjof Kruggel, UCI*

Professors Kruggel and Nieri gave updates on the respective MRU reviews they are participating in with UCORP.

**XII. New Business**

There was no new business.

**XIII. Executive Session**

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.

The committee adjourned at 2:17 p.m.