

COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes***Action Taken:*** *The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed, 8-0-0.***II. Chair's Report***Chair Erith Jaffe-Berg*

The Chair remarked that the new Provost was at the budget meeting and that she warned that the spring term is going to be unpredictable in terms of funding.

At Academic Council, three programs were up for approval, and two were approved. The UCLA Master of Data Science proposal was called into question. UCPB was concerned that another similar program had already been approved at UCLA. There was also concern about DEI issues from UCAADE and concern from UCEP that the program would impact undergraduate progress. The anti-discrimination document is being circulated for management review. There was discussion about the revisions to the conflict of commitment document. The attestation forms related to the strike were also discussed; there has been some pushback from the campuses. At this point, the monetary cost of the strike is unclear. Past Senate Chair Robert Horwitz joined Council to talk about the Climate Initiative; there is a group that is working to make sure the memorial is implemented. The focus has changed from sustainability to decarbonization. President Drake and Provost Newman came to Council as well. The President discussed new Covid protocols; the rate of hospitalization is much lower than it has been over the past three years. He said that the strike highlighted the vulnerability of the UC system. He acknowledged that the extent to which the University is dependent on graduate student labor for undergraduate instruction was made increasingly evident through the process of the strike. In other news, he affirmed that the Compact agreement with the Governor for a five percent year-over-year increase is still in place. This, along with cohort tuition and the state buy-out for non-resident students will help UC in the years ahead. The President also raised some issues with regard to transfer pathways and concerns that some of the practices that are in place for CSU would not be in the interest of UC and would negatively affect student diversity. There was a considerable conversation with the President about the need for graduate education and the need for more funding for graduate students and research. APC is forming a committee on graduate education to address this issue. The new Provost was very enthusiastic, and she expressed confidence that UC will come out of the strike stronger than before; she observed that the strike itself was a long time coming. The Council's Special Committee on Transfer Issues (ACSCOTI) is working on transfer pathway recommendations. There was a report from UCEP discussing the revision to SR 630 which would close the loophole in online undergraduate education.

III. Reports from the Student Representatives

Anne Berry, UCSB

Hash Brown, UCLA

Student Representative Berry reported that she is on the Governor's Board and that it is talking about graduate student housing issues. The students are working with FGR to lobby in Sacramento in March and Washington, DC in April.

Student Representative Taha said that there is a lot of talk about the strike and the new contract and what it means now to get training as a PhD student. He observed that many students are willing to take a pay cut to join a lab they find interesting, but now with the contract, they are unable to do so.

IV. Campus Reports

UCB – The campus had nothing to report.

UCD – The member shared in the chat a number of topics on which the GC is trying to provide guidance.

UCI – The GC has been asked to provide some guidance on the issue of 299s. He shared aspects of what his campus had developed.

UCLA – The campus is looking to become a Hispanic-Serving Institution. The campus also has a new provost. There is a hiring freeze which is adversely affecting several departments. One of the subcommittees of the GC is looking at definitions in relation to distance learning.

UCM – The campus has ongoing efforts with regard to syllabi. The member also discussed cross-campus courses that are being offered through grant funds. Some of these courses involve partnerships with organizations outside of UC and it is unclear how they count toward a student's degree.

UCR – The campus is very interested in seeing what CCGA puts together in terms of 299s. It is also very concerned about the future of graduate education funding.

UCSD – The GC discussed the issue of 299s extensively. The campus also discussed funding shortfalls that will be imminent with the raises.

UCSF – The campus has completed the review of all of its graduate programs and is preparing for new bylaw changes. The changes were made in an effort to clarify the powers of each of the graduate programs and their executive committees, so that they are able to remove faculty who are found to be in violation of Title IX and other regulations.

UCSB – the campus has spent considerable time trying to detangle academic work from employment for GSRs. The GC is pushing it to the departments so that each department can do what it thinks is right for their graduate student researchers.

UCSC - The task force on graduate funding prepared a report and it is trying to determine when to strategically release it. The Senate Executive Committee drafted a memo to the Chancellor and EVC about the information vacuum from UCOP and from the campus itself with regard to the strike.

V. Announcements from Academic Affairs

Theresa Maldonado, VP for Research and Innovation

Scott Brandt, AVP for Research and Innovation

Pamela Jennings, Executive Director of Graduate Studies

Todd Greenspan, Director of Academic Planning

Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst

Vice President Maldonado said that her office received nearly 500 letters of intent for the Climate Action Initiative. Her office staff reviewed them in a week and calibrated how to evaluate them. The total request was close to \$1B; the University has \$80M to award. The Vice President said that the PI teams will be getting notifications from her office in the coming week. Vice President Maldonado said she also has been preoccupied with post-strike issues and offered to talk to the committee about them. She explained that her office was not at the bargaining table with APP and UC Legal. The VCRs are asking a lot of questions. A subset of VCRs is meeting to share information, and her office is also involved with FGR about how to socialize the new state of affairs in Washington, DC. Other universities are watching what UC is doing. Individual campuses are not at the same place; each one is trying to identify a centralized source of funds to support faculty.

The committee engaged in extensive discussion about the strike and its aftermath.

Director Greenspan said that the APC has a current workgroup about the Future of Undergraduate Education and it is discussing the impacts of the strike on undergraduates. What are alternatives to using TAs? The workgroup hopes to have a report back to the APC in April. Director Greenspan's office has just sent a letter to the campuses about the 2023-24 enrollment plan and it has asked the campuses to revise their plans for the remainder of the Compact. In the last two to three years UC has had about 2,000 FTE growth of state-supported graduate students and the University was not funded for them.

Analyst Procello talked about the decline of doctorate programs in contrast with the rise in self-supporting programs and the need for greater systemwide planning around graduate degree programs. He told the group that his office is preparing to forward the Berkeley CDSS proposal to the Regents in May. Mr. Procello also share the President's priorities in light of the Anti-Discrimination policy: <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2022/09/president-drake-shares-his-priorities-for-uc.html>

VI. Council of Graduate Deans' Report

Dean Jean-Pierre Delplanque

Dean Delplanque said that the CoGD has had several meetings and is trying to find a way to move forward following the contract. He noted that the contract is heavily annotated and not finalized. There is discussion about making the salary scales public. The programs are doing the best they can to plan for their admission cycles. The deans are uncomfortable making decisions because there is little information available. They are also frustrated because they feel like they could help with the negotiation process but have not been involved. It is hoped that here will be some faculty involvement in the next negotiation process.

VII. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

James Steintrager, Academic Senate Vice Chair

Senate Vice Chair Steintrager explained that he and the Senate Chair had just participated in a three-day Regents' meeting and there were several matters of interest to faculty. Chair Cochran talked about the importance of research and the doctoral training mission of UC and how the current model is not sustainable. It was a real point of emphasis. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee met jointly with the Finance and Capital Strategies Committee and talked about the Compact with the governor. This year, the state anticipates a \$22.4B deficit. UC did receive a 4.9 percent increase to base funding and also some backfill for non-resident student enrollment. The budgeting process will now be taken up with the state legislature. The cohort tuition model is helpful for budgeting, but not helpful to PIs. The Investments Committee talked about the UC's investment portfolio. The need for student and faculty housing was discussed. There are significant conflict of interest barriers, since students and campuses will want to make this housing available below market rates. However, the investment group is obligated to make investments that return market rates, so it is not quite clear how that is going to work out.

Academic Council met with the President, new Provost, and the Student Regent. It reviewed comments on two presidential policies; the comments have been forwarded to Vice Provost Haynes. Council also reviewed a letter from UCPB and UCFW providing suggestions on more equitable handling of a planned faculty salary increase this year; that letter has been forwarded to President Drake. Finally, Council endorsed an amendment to SRs 610 and 630 to require undergraduates to spend at least a year in residence on campus. That matter now goes before the Senate Assembly.

Vice Provost Haynes sent out attestation forms in January; very few of them have been returned, and the next steps are unclear. HR is working on it. The extra work involved has roiled staff. The Faculty Association has written OP asserting that, while it is legal to withhold wages, it is not legal to ask faculty to complete the attestation forms. However the Office of General Counsel has affirmed that the forms are legal. There are sporadic reports of grades not being submitted because of the strike. It was clear from the Regents' meeting that the Regents will have little patience for the withholding of labor that is not accompanied by pay docking, regardless of what rationale is given by faculty. The VCRs are looking for bridge funding. They are also trying to determine how to engage with students who are also employees. Pay docking and job losses for students are being discussed. Not everyone is happy with the contract and there will be renegotiation. The Regents and administration are concerned about work stoppages related to the strike.

Members had considerable questions for the Senate Vice Chair and there was discussion.

VIII. New Program Proposals

A. Proposal for a College of Computing, Data Science and Society on the Berkeley Campus *Lead Reviewer: Andrei Goga*

Four reviews have been submitted, and they were very positive with a few points raised. The proposers anticipate that this will be one of the larger colleges on campus. The goals are to combine the areas of data science and computing with ethics and the impact of AI. The campus has already received \$404M. There is concern about the adequacy of staff support; many of these majors are already over-subscribed there were other questions that

were raised by reviewers and the committee. It was decided that the Lead Reviewer would take these issues back to the proposers and ask for a response.

- B. 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 is waiting on one final review. She anticipates being able to vote at the March meeting.

- C. Courtesy (unofficial) Review: Gallo School of Management on the Merced Campus
Lead Reviewer: Andrew Fisher

The Lead Reviewer recommended that CCGA encourage Merced to come forward with a pre-proposal. There is nothing that suggests it can't succeed, but there are a few things that need to be addressed. This will bring together four existing departments. There are questions as to why this is not a traditional MBA and if the Master of Management is too general. Also, what kind of interdisciplinary programs can be created? The Lead Reviewer will write a letter recommending a pre-proposal and encouraging them to resolve the issues that were raised in the informal review.

- D. Master of Advanced Study in Engineering on the Berkeley Campus [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: Michelle O'Malley

The Lead Reviewer has received three reviews back that are very thorough and thoughtful in their remarks. She shared the review comments with the proposers and the proposers in turn have provided me with a set of responses to major concerns. She hopes to have material circulated to the committee before the March meeting.

- E. Pre-Proposal for a School of Computing, Information and Data Science on the San Diego Campus
Lead Reviewer: Paul Macey

The Lead Reviewer said that the campus wants to pull together Data Science in a more organized way. The structure is unique; the campus is trying to build off of its Institute. The proposal seems ready to move onto the full proposal stage for the most part. There are some concerns about the relationship with Engineering and the administrative structure. More information will be shared, and the committee will hold an online vote.

- F. Proposal for a Master of Management Program on the Davis Campus [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: Tanya Nieri

This is a nine-month professional Master's degree appealing to specific group of people. This would provide preparation for entry-level employment in Business. The two reviews received thus far are largely positive but have significant concerns. One reviewer is outstanding.

- G. Proposal for a 4+1 Program in Microbiology on the Riverside Campus
Lead Reviewer: Edmund Campion

The Lead Reviewer has met with the proposers and had some extensive discussion. The current proposal has removed the entire plan one thesis which was a considerable part of where the previous concerns from CCGA lay. The Lead Reviewer, the Chair, and the Analyst will discuss the proposal after the meeting.

- H. Proposal for a Master of Climate Solutions Program on the Berkeley Campus. [SSGPDP]
Action Taken: Michael Scheibner was assigned as Lead Reviewer.
- I. Proposal for a Master of Engineering in Medical Device Development on the Davis Campus [SSGPDP]
Action Taken: Frithjof Kruggel was assigned as Lead Reviewer.
- J. Proposal for a MS/PhD in Material Science on the Santa Cruz Campus
Action Taken: Jeffrey Schank was assigned as Lead Reviewer.

IX. Graduate Student-Related Data Dashboards on UC's Information Center
Julienne Palbusa, UCOP Institutional Research Analyst

This consultation was tabled due to the extensive discussions about the labor issues.

X. Transfers, Name Changes, Consolidations, and Discontinuances

- A. Proposal to discontinue the M.S. and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics on the Los Angeles Campus

The committee will hold an email vote.

- B. Proposal to Convert the UCLA School of Nursing MSN Degree - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Program - to a Professional Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree Program

This proposal was tabled until March.

XI. Language/Terminology Pertaining to Online Education

This discussion was not held due to the extensive discussions about labor issues.

XII. New Business

Analyst Harms will compile information from the campuses on 299s.

XIII. Executive Session

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.

The committee adjourned at 3:34 p.m.