

## COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

**Minutes of Meeting**

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

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

**Action Taken:** *The agenda and minutes were approved 10-0-0.*

**II. Chair's Report**

*Chair Andrea Kasko*

APC featured a long discussion about UC undergraduate online degree programs. There are a lot of strong and mixed opinions on this topic, and there are two online proposals currently making their way through the system. Undergraduate proposals are not reviewed at the systemwide level, so there is a lot of concern about initiating these. There was a subsequent discussion about the future of undergraduate education at UC with respect to instruction technology and tools – how can they be used to modernize education. The budget meeting was in mid-March. The budget surplus may be affected by energy prices and inflation, and may not be as sizable as was originally anticipated. As of now, however, there have been no major revisions; the compact is still moving forward. There was also some discussion about GSRs and the budget impact of unionization. This will result in an increase in stipends and will affect the ability to fund graduate students.

At Council, there was considerable discussion about the ethnic studies requirement for undergraduates. The state has passed a requirement for an ethnic studies course; there is a difference between what UC proposes and what the state wants. California students will automatically fulfill this requirement in high school, but international and non-resident students will need a pathway to secure this. Council discussed the Senate recommendation on department political statements. The group also considered a request for reinstatement of the CDL collections budget; this was sent forward to the campuses. UCORP issued a statement on the effects of GSR unionization on research. It voiced concern to the potential cost increases, who will bear them, and what impact they will have on research. Council will be circulating that letter to the committees for comment. UC Legal has reiterated that a legal strategy against Chegg and Course Hero is unlikely to be met with success. There are some strategies about copyrighting materials, but these companies will continue to facilitate academic dishonesty. Finally, Chair Horwitz addressed the Regents in mid-March and was very powerful. The Chair emailed a link with the Chair Horwitz's remarks.

**III. Vice Chair's Report**

*Vice Chair Erith Jaffe-Berg*

The Vice Chair reported on the APC workgroup on Master's degree review. The group had two meetings. Chair Kasko made a solid presentation on the speed and efficacy of systemwide review, and – as a result - that topic was essentially removed from the agenda. The group brainstormed areas for improvement and it was suggested that it might be better to have external review done at the campus level to give proposers more feedback earlier in the process. However, some of the campuses might not like this workload given to them. The Vice Chair also attended UCORP's meeting about the MRU proposals; the reports are drafted. There was an SGR representative at the CoGD meeting and he mentioned how his office and the

CoGD could collaborate on advocacy for graduate research and graduate education. He also spoke about the multi-year funding agreement with the governor, which has already been introduced for the 2022-23 year and the five subsequent years. He asked for volunteers for meetings with the Latinx, African American, and Asian American caucuses in Sacramento. Climate research growth was discussed as well as the desire to see UC as an actor on climate change and carbon reduction focus. There was a request for data regarding graduate students delays or attrition as relates to COVID; the question of finding the data was raised. The meeting included a brief labor relations update.

#### **IV. Announcements from Academic Affairs**

*Theresa Maldonado, VP of Research and Innovation*

*Pamela Jennings, Exec. Director of Graduate Studies*

*Todd Greenspan, Director of Academic Planning*

*Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst*

Executive Director Jennings told the committee that her office is continuing to work with State Government Relations along with the Black Caucus and Latino Caucus. Her office is also working with IRAP on the Accountability Report and the graduate aspect of it. She reminded the group that she had shared the UC-HBCU and HSI materials with them and said that her office is still finalizing fellowship requests. Grad Slam is being hosted by LinkedIn this year; there will not be an in person audience, but there will be a live, in-person event. UCI is leading an effort for a community college faculty internship program. Her office had some resources to run a pilot and then expand the effort to other campuses. Ms. Jennings reminded the group that the legislature is concerned about diversifying the professoriate.

Vice President Maldonado said that the governor announced January 10th that UC is in his FY 2023 budget plan; he has budgeted \$185 million for climate resilient communities. There will be three components: \$100 million will be for research grants, \$50 million will be for regional innovation hubs, and \$35 million will be for workforce development. She said that the wildfire symposia last summer kicked off a shift in research culture at UC; the governor's office invited the University to submit a climate resilience proposal. The 10 campuses and the national labs are all working together with the governor's office. The hope is that UC will be able to lead that effort for the state, in conjunction with industry, nonprofits, and communities. The Regents have a special committee to provide oversight for the implementation of the recommendations of the Innovation Transfer final report. Her office was asked to lead that response, and at the next Regents' special committee meeting, there will be a panel of student entrepreneurs presenting on performance in the innovation ecosystem of the University of California. It will be at least a two-year process to respond to this report; it is a full-time effort. The committee had questions for the Vice President.

Director Greenspan announced that the CSU trustees are interested in new doctoral degrees for the California State University. They are planning to try to amend a bill this year that would give CSU the authority for the doctor of public health. The CSU chancellors are receiving a lot of pressure from their board. The leadership at OP has been asked to examine the issue, and President Drake is leaning towards possibly allowing them to have this authority; UC will need to respond. CSU is also talking about offering an expanded ED. Last year, the community colleges got a bill through allows them to offer baccalaureate degree if they do not duplicate degrees UC and CSU offer. The California Post-Secondary Education Commission used to arbitrate these master plan disputes. The Director also talked about graduate enrollment. The governor's budget includes a proposal for a five-year compact. The legislature wants UC to grow by 6,000 students in the next two years and UC is trying to get them to fund the 5,000 it

grew over the past two years. Mr. Greenspan said that his office has just received the campus multi-year plans from all but two campuses. At this point, it seems that the campuses are proposing growth of about 400 academic graduate students per year and about 175 state-supported professional students per year.

Analyst Procello said UCSD is pleased that the Eighth College proposal will be on the agenda next month for the Regents. He thanked the committee for its work on it.

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

*Dean Jean-Pierre Delplanque*

The graduate deans intend to work closely and effectively with SGR. They are very hopeful that they are in a good place to work with them on labor issues. The postdoc contract has been extended to April 8, and the ASE contract has been extended. CoGD discussed how to handle substantiated violations of the SVSH policy and if these are communicated to graduate students. ASE (BX) bargaining is ongoing. The student researchers bargaining has just started.

## **VI. Campus Reports**

UCB – The campus had a lot of discussion about the College of Computing, Data Science, and Society proposal which will be coming to CCGA soon. The campus also is working on a proposal for a distinctive program in engineering. It consists of 24 one-unit courses.

UCD – The campus had nothing to report.

UCI - The campus had nothing to report.

UCLA – The campus had nothing to report.

UCM – The campus is becoming increasingly concerned about its ability to recruit and retain postdocs. UC pay rates are distressingly low, especially compared to government postdoc positions. Both NSF and NASA have announced increases to their post-doctoral rates. Merced has been putting forward a number of appointments by exception. These raise issues of equity on the campus level: potentially an engineering postdoc from a government lab would get paid more than a postdoc in the humanities or social sciences. This also is complicated because of issues with the labor contract.

UCR - Students are updating the Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. The graduate division also updated its disqualification procedures so that standards will be more lenient in the first quarter. The campus had a presentation about the impact of native and indigenous affiliation and identity fraudulence on graduate education. The administration drafted a new fiscal policy for the fiscal management regarding the establishment and management of self-supporting programs. The campus has a new report on mental health, particularly for underrepresented graduate students.

UCSD - The campus had nothing to report.

UCSF – The member was not present.

UCSB – The housing situation continues to get worse – the campus cannot guarantee even a year of housing for graduate students. Also, there was a raise in health care premiums for graduate students - up to 30 percent in one year.

UCSC – The campus had nothing to report.

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

*Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Chair*

*Susan Cochran, Academic Council Vice Chair*

Council Chair Horwitz remarked that the Regents met two weeks ago, and there was concern expressed in the Investments Committee about the invasion of Ukraine and impacts on the

energy markets. The Regents also were worried about Russian cyber-attacks. Relatedly, the University announced a two-year extension of the Experian coverage; the Senate is asking for to become a recurring part of the basic employee benefits package. At the Public Engagement Committee, there was discussion to increase the voting student members of the Board from one to two. If approved by the Regents, this will require a vote by the by California voters. EVP Carrie Byington gave her update on COVID at the Health Services Committee; she is very wary of the disease. Dr. Byington also reported that the affiliation contracts have been signed by Dignity Health and Adventist Health. Negotiations are being worked out with Providence Health, the VA, and Indian Health Services. There is an interim affiliations document with the religious hospitals that has been sent out for full Senate review. The Senate has been engaged with Alex Bustamante's office (Ethics, Compliance, and Audit); they have created a training video for medical staff about how to file complaints through the whistleblower system if they are restricted by a hospital with regard to the care they provide.

The search for a replacement for Provost Brown is getting started, and the Senate Chair and Vice Chair are on the search committee. The search for Vice Provost Carlson's replacement is on a brief hold while HR seeks a broader applicant pool. The recruitment and interview process for Executive Baxter's replacement will be concluded in the next couple of weeks.

The Council sent a letter on the behalf of UCIE about US Presidential Proclamation 10043 which suspends entry of certain students and researchers from the people's Republic of China. The Senate and UCIE are concerned that PP10043 operates with a very broad bush. The Senate Chair and Vice Chair and representatives from UCIE met with FGR and related their concerns. FGR is going to talk to members of the State Department; they do not want to take their concerns to Congress out of fear that they will enact a more stringent law.

The Academic Council met last Wednesday and nominated James Steintrager to be the incoming vice chair of the Senate. That nomination will go to the Assembly next week for an official vote.

There has been controversy around the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) for the past couple of years; certain campuses have determined that it is discriminatory. The Council appointed a task force to look at this issue and it came back with a very thorough report. While there may have been problems with it in the past, the ELWR is a very well-intentioned requirement and should remain as an essential and foundational tool for student access and student success as well as an instrument of equity for a student population that has become far more diverse since the ELWR was first established a century ago.

At Academic Council there were two difficult discussions. One was about SR 424 (the Ethnic Studies requirement) which UC needs to align with California state law. BOARS was the owner of the course description and regulation, and Council sent it out for full Senate review; there were a range of responses. Ultimately, there was sentiment for following the state model, and after discussion it was sent back to BOARS for further consultation. Political statements on department websites was also a controversial topic. Council sent it to UCAF and they came back with a considered memo. They said that departments cannot be precluded from having (or endorsing) political statements, but such statements should have disclaimer that they are not speaking for the institution on the whole. UCAF also addressed the concern that some people would feel coerced to sign on to such statements. Council is endorsing a recommendation that would have departments engage in a discussion of their own bylaws about when such statements could be issued, and what compromises a "unit." The recommendation is that the statements not have individual signatures - that they would be more-or-less anonymous.

Council sent this back to the Committee on Academic Freedom for revision. UCAF will ultimately send it back to Council which then will send it on to the campuses at us as a set of guidelines. They will not be policy, and there will be no enforcement mechanism.

The state tax receipts are higher than expected, and UC feels that there is an opportunity to put forward a one-time request for \$1.6M for deferred maintenance and seismic retrofitting.

Council will soon be finished with its report regarding the mitigation of the impact of COVID on faculty. The most important recommendation is ARO: achievement relative to opportunity. ARO is intended to rebalance the weight between teaching, service, and research to recognize that many faculty could not get to their research sites or labs during COVID. Many others had significant caregiving responsibilities which interfered with their work. The report also recommends ways for campuses to help start the research enterprise, among which will be the awarding of extra sabbatical credit for teaching during COVID. That report will be given to Provost Brown this week and Mary Croughan and the Council Chair will present on it at the May Regents' meeting. The Chair asked that CCGA members work to socialize the report on their campuses and make sure that it gets to every faculty member. Former Senate Chair Gauvain put together a survey to get a sense of the faculty experience during COVID. This survey was very important to the workgroup report. It also showed the Regents and the administration how hard it was to work during COVID.

The Climate Crisis Memorial has been wending its way through Senate; it will be the first agenda item on the Assembly meeting next Wednesday, and will be sent quickly to all the campuses for a vote so that Berkeley and Merced are still in session. The retirement saving plan will be stripping fossil fuels from its portfolio on June 30. This is relatively minor money and will not be framed as being done for moral reasons, but instead in response to concerns that these are risky stranded assets.

ICAS was charged by recent legislation to create a singular GE transfer pathway to the CSU and the UC. The Senate has put together a way forward and will be voting on a new IGETC framework that aligns the segments.

The committee had several questions for the Senate leadership.

## VIII. New Program Proposals

A. Proposal for an MS in Precision Medicine on the San Diego Campus [SSGPDP] *Lead Reviewer: James Bisley*

B.

The Lead Reviewer has four reviewers secured, and two reviews received. He said that – as of now – he had several concerns about the proposal. He is waiting for the other two reviews to come in and hopes to have a recommendation for the May meeting.

C. Proposal for Master of Climate Solutions on the Berkeley Campus [SSGPDP]  
***Action Taken: Arvind Rajaraman was appointed as Lead Reviewer.***

D. Proposal for a joint PhD in Computational Precision Health between the Berkeley and San Francisco Campuses  
*Lead Reviewer: Dean Tantillo*

This proposal has not been received.

- E. Proposal to Convert the DNP/FNP State-Supported Program to an SSGPDP on the Davis Campus [SSGPDP]

*Lead Reviewer: Candace Yano*

The Lead Reviewer told the committee that the original state-supported program was recently approved, and does not have the requisite meritorious review on file. However, Director Greenspan said that an exception to policy could be requested from the Provost. It was agreed that the external reviews for the original proposal could be used if there had not been substantial changes to the curriculum and mode of delivery.

## **IX. Transfers, Name Changes, Consolidations, and Discontinuances**

- A. Proposal for a Simple Name Change for Berkeley's Graduate School of Education to the Berkeley School of Education from the Berkeley Campus

***Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-1.***

- B. Proposal for a Simple Name Change for the MA and PhD degrees from Near Eastern Studies to Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures on the Berkeley Campus

***Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-1.***

- C. Proposal for a Simple Name Change for the PhD in Management to the PhD in Business Administration on the Riverside Campus

***Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-1.***

- D. Proposal for a Simple Name Change for the PhD in Information Management and Systems on the Berkeley Campus

***Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-1.***

## **X. Letter: COVID's Impact on Graduate Students**

Members had some suggestions for the letter. The Chair will incorporate these and share with CoGD. The goal is to have it submitted to Council by the end of this academic year.

## **XI. Update: APC Workgroup on Master's Degree Review**

The committee discussed the recent deliberations of the APC Workgroup and speculated as to how to best move forward in subsequent meetings.

## **XII. English Language Testing/Requirements**

The committee discussed Senate Regulations 454 and 520. Overall, the sense was that the policy should not be systemwide – or if it is to exist, it should be updated. There is concern that – if it is handled at the campus level – it may be implemented variously by different departments. The committee will continue to discuss this.

## **XIII. New Business**

Chair Kasko will touch base with the UCORP chair about a letter regarding GSR unionization so that the committee can discuss it in May.

There is an interest creating a systemwide policy on posthumous degrees. An effort made it as far as the President's office in 2019, but then got waylaid by COVID. Analyst Harms will set up a Box folder to collect current campus policies and will upload documents from 2019.

The committee adjourned at 2:26 p.m.