

COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Action Taken: *The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed 11-0-0.*

II. Chair's Report - Chair Amr El Abbadi

The Chair reported that there had been a confrontation between UC's financial officers and a member of the state legislature. The senator was opposed to having NRST increased. There continues to be discussion – without resolution – about Chegg and the role of technology in cheating. There are discussions and opinions across the spectrum on this. Also, Chegg is fee-based and therefore unfairly advantages students who can afford it. There are ongoing discussions about the campuses reopening. The campuses are currently at various stages of openness and readiness to return to in-person instruction. The Chair urged members to get involved in the reopening decisions on their campuses. The University's affiliation with Catholic hospitals continues to be controversial and a topic of debate. There is a bill being discussed in the legislature which would prohibit such affiliations.

III. Vice Chair's Report – Vice Chair Andrea Kasko

The Vice Chair was unable to attend the meeting, but gave this written report.

The March COGD meeting discussed English proficiency exams. There was an issue at one of the UC campuses centered on tests of oral proficiency, which TAs take in order to demonstrate they possess English language skills sufficient for instruction. Some campuses have policies that base whether or not a prospective TA has to take a Test of Oral Proficiency on citizenship or national origin, and it was alleged that this is discriminatory. Some campuses base their requirements on native language and language of their academic institution, not citizenship or national origin. This may also be a problem with deciding who takes the TOEFL. This issue will likely come to CCGA, although there was also discussion at COGD that they may form a subcommittee to make recommendations around this issue. New additional education relief funding is coming; it is unclear how much there is for grad students in particular. ASE appointment limits were temporary extended under COVID-19, and there is a desire by some to make this extension permanent.

IV. Announcements from Academic Affairs

Bart Aoki, Exec. Director at Research Grants Program Office

Pamela Jennings, Executive Director of Graduate Studies

Todd Greenspan, Director of Academic Planning

Executive Director Jennings said that the UCHSI reviews have been completed, and the awards will be announced soon. UCHBC proposals are currently under review. A formal announcement for Grad Slam will be coming out soon; the event is May 4 and President Drake will be hosting. Her office is in conversation with the EVCs about "Grow Our Own," and will be meeting with them again this month. The goal is to try to impact equity and inclusion in the PhD programs.

Director Aoki remarked that the department of Research and Innovation has two lab fee research program calls out. One is a resident graduate research fellowship opportunity that currently is available; the deadline is April 21. There is also a larger competition for a collaboration and training awards with the national labs; those funding opportunities are in-process. Letters of intent are due in May and full proposals are due in August. Mr. Aoki reminded the group that Vice President Maldonado has launched three searches: one for the Director of the Observatories, one for the Director of the NRS, and one for the Executive Director of Systemwide Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Knowledge Transfer. He closed by telling the committee that State Government Relations has organized a meeting with heads of state agencies that are engaged in climate adaptation and resilience. These meetings are with campus research leadership and OP to discuss the role of higher education in that arena.

Director Greenspan told the committee that his department had a Regents item on curricular innovations to address equity. Separately, his unit had just received campus submissions for a multiyear enrollment plan; he will discuss them at the May meeting. He added that preliminary figures indicate graduate enrollment growth for the next four years.

V. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Chair

Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Vice Chair

The Senate Chair discussed the March Regents' meeting. The Provost and the IRAP Vice President presented information on the economic impact of UC on the state. They had very extensive data; it is available on the Regents' website. The Smarter Balance test is being evaluated as an alternative to the SAT/ACT. Last year, UCEP ran a survey about remote instruction for faculty and the Senate is discussing giving one again this year. Last year, there were over 5,000 respondents. The Senate Chair explained that UC is being pressured by the Regents and the legislature to have more online instruction.

Chair Gauvain said that the Senate is spending a lot of time planning the fall reopening. There have been a lot of conversations that have been managed by the medical side of the University. The Senate wants to create some systemwide guidelines that allow flexibility for the campuses. It has broken the guidelines into three categories: process (stakeholders should be involved in the decision-making), structure (what is a course and how much flexibility should there be with regard to course structure), and operations (what if behaviors that are expected do not come through).

The Senate Vice Chair talked about the data breach recently experienced by the University. He urged faculty to avail themselves of the Experian credit search. Separately, the Senate would like UC Legal to "go after" Chegg and Course Hero. He said they are threatening academic integrity and the integrity of a UC degree. Separately, he said that Council has spent a significant amount of time discussing the affiliation of UC Health with Catholic health chains. Council will be moving toward a vote. This issue is slated to come up to the Regents in May but may not come up until June.

Chair Gauvain said that it is likely that students will have a mandate for the vaccine. It is unclear if faculty and staff would have such a mandate and how it would be enforced.

Committee members had questions for the Senate leadership and there was considerable discussion.

VI. Council of Graduate Deans Report – Dean Quentin Williams

Mr. Williams reported that the graduate deans are in the core of the admissions season. They won't know the turnout for admissions until April 15; as of now, it seems strong. Some of the consulates are now open on an emergency basis and there is some indication that things may be increasing on the international education front. For most campuses, the percentage of URM applications is up. That may be a result of the GRE elimination, but that is not certain. Separately, each campus is receiving higher education emergency relief funds; they are being distributed to graduate students who have a declared financial need. Lastly, there seems to be a general sense that people would like to permanently extend the 18 quarter TA limit to 21 quarters.

VII. Student Representative Report

Valeria Orue (UCR) and Doreen Joseph (UCD)

Student Representative Orue said that the UCGPC (UC Graduate and Professional Council) is focusing on UC Advocacy Day and meeting with legislators, with a focus on the Double Pell movement. Housing seems to be an issue systemwide, with a concern on professional graduate students' rent being raised despite the fact that they aren't receiving funding. The most recent policing meeting was productive. There is worry about what kind of protective measures are going to be in place regarding COVID in the fall.

Student Representative Joseph said that at their last meeting they talked about GSR unionizing. She was able to attend a safety forum for grad students and it had a respectable turnout. The students are hoping to get some good movement on that front. The union is working to help with pay issues.

VIII. New Program Proposals

- A. Proposal to establish a Master of Science in Health Informatics on the San Diego campus [SSGPDP]
- *Lead Reviewer Andrea Kasko*
There has been no response from the campus. The UCSD member will try to contact the proposers.
- B. Proposal for a Terminal Master of Education in School Psychology on the Santa Barbara Campus
- *Lead Reviewer Hrant Hratchian*
Overall, this is a strong proposal and reviews are quite positive. There was only one specific suggestion that faculty be multicultural and have bilingual skills; the proposers addressed this concern.
Action Taken: The proposal was approved 9-0-2.
- C. Proposal for an MS in Genetic Counseling on the Davis Campus
- *Lead Reviewer Don Smith*
All three reviews are in and the Lead Reviewer has communicated with the proposers. The proposers anticipate submitting a revised proposal for the next meeting

- D. Proposal for a new MS in Robotics on the Riverside Campus
- *Lead Reviewer Candace Yano*
The reviewers found a number of issues with the proposal, and the proposers provided a very extensive response. There was concern about DEI, which they addressed.
Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-1.
- E. Proposal for an Online Master of Data Science on the San Diego Campus [SSGPDP]
- *Lead Reviewer Fernando Torres-Gil*
The Lead Reviewer received three of the four reviews; they all were very positive. Each of them had some minor suggestions for modification, but they all agreed that it is very solid program.
- F. Proposal for an MS in Data Science on the San Diego Campus
- *Lead Reviewer Bjoern Schwer*
All four reviewers are in place. The Lead Reviewer has received two reviews, is following up with the third, and am expects the fourth April 23.
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- G. Proposal for a PhD in Biological Engineering on the Santa Barbara Campus
- *Lead Reviewer Dean Tantillo*
The Lead Reviewer has commitments from four reviewers; the three that responded have similar concerns. The Lead Reviewer contacted the proposers and they responded right away. The Lead Reviewer is going to go back with some additional questions.
- H. Proposal for a Master of Analytics on the Berkeley Campus [SSGPDP]
- *Lead Reviewer Arvind Rajaraman*
The Lead Reviewer has received three reviews. They are all really positive and the proposal seems very well thought out.
Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-1.
- I. Proposal for a MS in Health Data Science on the UCSF Campus [SSGPDP]
- *Lead Reviewer Andrea Kasko*
The Lead Reviewer has contacted four reviewers: two external, two internal. To date, one has declined, one has accepted.
- J. Proposal for a Certificate in Health Data Science on the UCSF Campus
- *Lead Reviewer Andrea Kasko*
The Lead Reviewer will get two reviewers for this proposal.
- K. Proposal for a PhD in Data Science on the San Diego Campus
Action Taken: Candace Yano was assigned as Lead Reviewer.
- L. Proposal for a Master of Science/Doctor of Philosophy program in Planetary Science on the Los Angeles Campus
Action Taken: Erith Jaffe-Berg was assigned as Lead Reviewer.

IX. Transfer, Name Changes, Consolidations, and Discontinuances

- A. Proposal to discontinue the Doctor of Public Health degree and discontinue the Doctor of Public Health school-wide graduate program at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health on the Los Angeles Campus

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

X. SSGPDP Sub-Committee Update

The joint subcommittee on SSGPDPs met on March 10. It discussed two main issues. The first issue was programs that rapidly change after approval. After lengthy discussion, the subcommittee is going to propose the following in its year-end report: a) Any curricular changes that occur in the first three years of the program (before the first review) will need to be reported to CCGA. This includes changing the number of courses or units required and also includes changing the modality of delivery. Depending on the extent of change and its perceived impact of the program, CCGA may request re-review of the program, b) For changes that occur after the initial review, any *cumulative* changes beyond 25 percent increase or decrease in units, 25 percent change in mode of delivery, and or combined changes representing 25 percent or more of courses needs to be reported to CCGA for evaluation, c) Substantial changes to the approved budget (approximately 25 percent in any category), such as changes to faculty compensation (i.e. changing how faculty are compensated), staff compensation, and return to aid must be reported to UCPB. The subcommittee also posited that SSGPDPs might be increasingly crowding out or replacing state-supported programs, and there may be more requests to convert state-supported programs into SSGPDPs. What are the consequences of such conversions to graduate education in the UC?

XI. Dual and Joint Degrees Update

The Chair remarked that he received feedback from several committee members about the proposed guidelines for dual and joint degrees. There are discussions taking place at Cornell about dual degrees with international affiliations. They raise issues about ethics and core values. He asked the committee if it should consider UC values and mission when partnering with other universities. The committee discussed this at length.

XII. APM 210.1.d (Mentorship)

The Chair said that the APM language was now with UCAP. Susan Carlson recommended talking to Vickie Mays from UCLA. The Chair will get an update after UCAP meets.

XIII. Campus Reports

Berkeley – There was a lot of discussion at the grad council meeting about SSGPDPs; graduate students were concerned about tuition and accessibility.

Davis – The member had nothing to report.

Irvine – The campus is doing three-year reviews of SSGPDPs. Three to four programs are being reviewed. The English proficiency for foreign students has been a topic of discussion. The policy requiring the English exam was deemed to be discriminatory.

UCLA – The member was no longer at the meeting.

Merced – The campus is considering graduate student training and professional development in response to reviews. The Merced GC is getting increasingly concerned. This has implications in terms of the APM. The campus has a number of program proposals and name changes that are coming to CCGA in the near future.

Riverside – The campus is dealing with replacing the GREs with different kinds of criteria and looking at rubrics; it has discovered the process to be incredibly onerous. The possibility of

remote language instruction has been raised on the campus. There might be an opportunity for systemwide delivery of languages that are not taught on all of the campuses.

UCSD – The campus announced that the price of graduate student housing is going to increase 30-70 percent. This was announced during recruitment and has resulted in a lot of push back from the Academic Senate.

UCSF – The main topic in grad council is determining the point in the disciplinary process where it is appropriate for graduate groups to withdraw membership if there are charges of sexual misconduct. This is being advanced by the graduate student association.

UCSB – Most of the campus classes will be in person in the fall.

UCSC – The member had nothing to report.

The committee adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

Minutes taken by Fredye Harms, Committee Analyst

Attest: Amr El Abbadi, CCGA Chair