

COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

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

II. Chair's Report - Chair Amr El Abbadi

The Chair summarized meetings he had attended, including Council, Assembly and APC.

The state budget is looking positive; there is unprecedented revenue due to a windfall in taxes. The University is asking for an allotment to cover a three percent salary increase, student support, infrastructure, and seismic retrofitting. Nobody knows what is going to happen until the May Revise.

Graduate students are moving to be unionized. Faculty are asked to keep their neutrality and should not voice opinions for or against the union.

There is an issue surrounding Zoom and academic freedom. The Academic Council cares strongly about this issue and has sent a letter to the President regarding freedom of speech issues. Zoom is concerned about providing material support to groups that are considered terrorist organizations. They have asked the University to clarify its stance.

There are questions about policing and the revisions to the Gold Book. There were a lot of demonstrations and protests last Monday. The letters from the campuses were quite strong in condemning the revisions to the Gold Book. The President seemed to agree and is holding seminars about policing. The revisions were started in 2017 and are viewed with dissatisfaction, especially in light of events from the past year.

Another issue is the affiliation with hospitals that have ERDs (ethical and religious directives). This is in regards to a proposed affiliation with Dignity Hospital, which is Catholic. It is being considered very seriously and a decision will come up in the next few months. The Senate is against it, but the President spoke very strongly in support of such affiliations. The affiliations would allow UC to serve many patients that are in poor and rural communities and especially in the Central Valley and Inland Empire. There is a tension between providing the quality medical care vs. not providing reproductive services such as contraception and abortion, and not serving LGBTQI populations. All of this might be derailed because there are two bills in the legislature that would require UC not to affiliate with ERD entities. The administration is not pleased with this bill.

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

Much of the discussion at UCACC centered on the Accellion data breach; this is a much bigger deal than the SolarWinds breach. Any affected family members are eligible for credit monitoring at the University's expense. There was discussion as to whether credit monitoring should become a regular benefit to employees. Another discussion centered around fall reopening; there is forthcoming systemwide guidance coming. It is unclear at this point what it will mean for the campuses. There are concerns about international students getting visas. There was a longer discussion about online learning issues – no one has figured out a good way to do assessment in an

online environment. The University is trying to find tools that allow for rigorous assessment while protecting the privacy of students. This will be an interesting and evolving topic. Questions that were raised include how does the University approach remote instruction versus online courses? When do programs need to get approval? WASC guidelines are also implicated.

At CoGD, English proficiency testing was an issue. There is some question as to whether UC will allow employees to work from abroad. There is an ongoing graduate student campus climate study. Grad Slam is Friday.

IV. Announcements from Academic Affairs

Theresa Maldonado, Vice President of 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 reminded the committee of the three searches that are underway: the Director for the Observatories, the Executive Director for the NRS, and the Executive Director for Knowledge Transfer, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship. She noted that the knowledge transfer, innovation, and entrepreneurship activities at the system have been in flux for a number of years with lots of leadership changes and lack of cohesion, not to mention some operational challenges. She told the committee that she had invited Regent Leib, who has been leading a Regents Innovation Working Group, to look at how UC operated and how it compares to other universities across the country. She added that there is a Knowledge Transfer Advisory Committee and that she and Dr. Damon Toll from UCD are leading it. She said that her department is building a data set for the first time and taking a look at UC's innovation ecosystem. She hopes to engage a broader group of students. The Academic Senate will be looking at how this fits in to promotion in tenure. The Vice President added that her department is launching a short-term working group to look at multi-campus research and create a high level framework of principles to guide multi-campus efforts. There is documentation in the Compendium on how the MRUs are run, but there is no such guidance for the California Institutes for Science and Innovation, and other multi-campus efforts. Her office is hoping to finish this by the end of July. The committee asked questions of the Vice President and there was discussion.

Executive Director Jennings told the committee that Grad Slam would be on Friday. President Drake will be hosting and emceeing. Her office is still in the process of receiving fellowship application for HBCUS. To date, the program has received the most applications of its 10-year existence; the review committee will meet June. Her office is finalizing its work with the six business schools around the Summer Institute for Emerging Leaders, which will be virtual. The PIs with the HSI and HBCU programs will largely be planning virtual experiences.

Analyst Procello explained about a proposal being returned because the diversity plan in it was too specific. It is unclear if that type of goal would be in violation of Prop 209. The question is now with UC Legal.

Director Greenspan informed the committee that the University is in the midst of the undergraduate admission cycle and enrollment planning. Some of the campuses are considerably over their targets. A few campuses are similarly overloaded with non-residents. The legislature is not happy about the proportion of non-residents. Mr. Greenspan said that last year there was a lot of waitlist activity. There will still be some this year, but it will be less. He explained that the May Revise would be next week and that there seemed to be extra money in the budget this year that

will probably be one-time. UC submitted a request for capital projects and those hopefully will be funded.

V. Council of Graduate Deans Report – Dean Quentin Williams

English proficiency is on the agenda. The graduate deans would like to see SR 520 erased rather than reworked. The overarching take is that - in many instances - campuses are very conscious about the linguistic capabilities of their TAs.

There is an enhanced revenue to the state, and one aspect is the allocation of \$15M more for mental health services; grad students access mental health services more often and the graduate deans are hoping that the money will be allocated on a service basis rather than a per-person. The grad deans are recommending a two-year extension of the 18–21 unit.

VI. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Chair

Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Vice Chair

Academic Senate Chair Gauvain reminded the committee that the Senate has been working on the fall reopening. The Senate has shared a memo with the President and with the division chairs that outlined support for students, faculty, and staff for reopening in the fall. The Senate is also working to finalize a survey to find out how the year has gone and what expectations faculty have for fall. This is an extension of the survey that was conducted last spring. The survey will be sent to the division chairs with the request that they circulate it to everyone who has been teaching over the past year. Another continuing issue is the ACT/SAT change from last spring; the University is now looking at adapting Smarter Balance for admissions

Senate Vice Chair Horwitz told the committee that Council talked about the policing issue in light of the President’s symposia on campus safety. Through normal revision procedures, the Gold Book was found to be out of synch with the post-George Floyd moment; the revisions were found quite wanting. The affiliations with Catholic hospitals was also discussed. The Senate has been doing due diligence on that issue, and it has culminated in a re-endorsement of the opposition to affiliation. There was a considerable academic freedom issue around Zoom which declined to host a meeting by Leila Khaled. There is a provision against tangible and material support for terrorism in the Zoom policies. This came to Council and it is trying to convince UC Legal to engage in a pre-enforcement action to clarify the rules around this issue. Finally, there was a discussion about Chegg and Course Hero, faculty intellectual property being stolen, and the integrity of exams. Chegg came to UCEP and presented; there was disagreement as to whether it has tried hard enough to keep its platform from being transformed into a cheating session.

Committee members had questions and there was discussion.

VII. Student Representative Reports

Doreen Joseph (UCD) and Valeria Orue (UCR)

Student Representative Joseph remarked that international student researchers are unionizing. She said she has been involved with basic needs assessment and that she has discovered is that there are resources available, but students don’t know about them. They also do not utilize them, and the Associated Students is trying to figure out why. Part of the problem is outreach. There is a new graduate student building and the Associated Students are trying to turn it into a hub for basic needs resources. The students are also working to get information about resources into orientation. Similarly, a lot of relief in terms of grants requires a FASFA on file and that information is not

getting to students. Students should have a FASFA on file in case of an emergency. The students received word that classes will be in- person in the fall.

Student Representative Orue stated that UCR started a new health working group after a student complained about practices at an affiliated mental health provider. Next year, the campus is going to waive all co-pays for student mental health services. They are going to be starting a service with Uber and Lyft to transport students to appointments and also will be using services other than police for 5150 calls. The campus is hoping to have trained volunteers – possibly students in the psychiatry program – provide this service. The students are also trying to get the referral processed waived for mental health services. The graduate students met with President Drake and talked about policing; there is a new workgroup and new guidelines are going to come to the chancellors and then to the campuses.

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*

The proposers have been slow to respond. Last time, the Lead Reviewer sent them a few specific questions and the proposers said that they disagreed with the criticisms. It is unclear why new degree program is necessary when the majority of the courses already exist. There is not an existing masters program that using these courses; they are for PhD students. If CCGA does approve, it should caution about impact on the PhD program. How will the state-supported students be separated from the self-supported? The program was discussed at length by the committee. The Lead Reviewer feels that the proposers are not very responsive or invested; all of the reviews were completed in December. The committee decided that the proposal needed to be modified and re-vetted by the graduate council before it could be approved by CCGA.

Action Taken: The proposal was rejected 10-0-1.

- B. Proposal for an MS in Genetic Counseling on the Davis Campus

- *Lead Reviewer Don Smith*

The Lead Reviewer commented that this is a straightforward proposal and that he has secured three very qualified reviewers. The reviews are consistent, and the Lead Reviewer sent them to the proposers in February. He did not hear back from the proposers until he asked them in April for a response. The proposers said they were having deeper discussions about the structure of the program, and were still working on it.

- C. Proposal for an Online Master of Data Science on the San Diego Campus [SSGPDP]

- *Lead Reviewer Fernando Torres-Gil*

The Lead Reviewer received four reviews and they were all very supportive of the quality of - and the market for - the program. Three out of the four thought that there may be insufficient statistical preparation and that needs to be strengthened.

- D. Proposal for an MS in Data Science on the San Diego Campus

- *Lead Reviewer Bjoern Schwer*

The Lead Reviewer has received four reviews from experts in the field. The reviewers were largely supportive of the program but had some areas for improvement. The Lead Reviewer will communicate with the proposers and – depending on how quickly they respond – the proposal may be ready for a vote at the next meeting.

- E. Proposal for a PhD in Biological Engineering on the Santa Barbara Campus
 - *Lead Reviewer Dean Tantillo*
 The Lead Reviewer said that the program received three detailed reviews and got a late fourth one that was entirely positive. There were two issues that we needed clarification, and the proposers addressed them.
Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-2.
- F. Proposal for a MS in Health Data Science on the UCSF Campus [SSGPDP]
 - *Lead Reviewer Andrea Kasko*
 The Lead Reviewer has secured three reviewers and hopes to get some in-depth comments in the next couple of weeks. This proposed curriculum overlaps with an existing SSGPDP.
- G. Proposal for a Certificate in Health Data Science on the UCSF Campus
 - *Lead Reviewer Andrea Kasko*
 This proposal is being reviewed in tandem with the SSGPDP.
- H. Proposal for a PhD in Data Science on the San Diego Campus
 - *Lead Reviewer Candace Yano*
 The Lead Reviewer has received one review and expects another in a few days. The other reviewers have agreed to respond by May 26. The first reviewers has expressed some concerns about the positioning of the program.
- I. Proposal for a Master of Science/Doctor of Philosophy program in Planetary Science on the Los Angeles Campus
 - *Lead Reviewer Erith Jaffe-Berg*
 The Lead Reviewer has secured four reviewers. The one review she has received is largely favorable but has some concerns. The review is moving forward at a healthy pace
- J. Proposal for a Master of Applied Chemical Sciences on the Los Angeles Campus [SSGPDP]
Action Taken: Partho Ghosh was assigned as Lead Reviewer.

IX. Transfer, Name Changes, Consolidations, and Discontinuances

- A. Proposal for a simple name change for the Conservation of Archaeological and Ethnographic Materials Interdepartmental Degree Program (IDP) and MA to Conservation of Cultural Heritage IDP and MA on the Los Angeles Campus
Action Taken: The proposal was approved 9-0-2.
- B. Proposal for a simple name change for the MS in Range Management to the MS in Rangeland and Wildlife Management and a change to the name of the graduate group from the Graduate Group in Range Management to the Graduate Group in Rangeland and Wildlife Management on the Berkeley Campus.
Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-1.

X. SSGPDP Sub-Committee Update

The sub-committee met a week ago and is going to present a report to CCGA and UCPB. It will advocate of taxation of SSGPDPs to account for all costs, both obvious and “hidden.” The sub-committee will also advocate for transparency and accounting of the programs. Both UCPB and CCGA endorse the reporting of curricular changes in excess of 25 percent.

XI. Dual and Joint Degrees Update

CCGA will send the new guidelines to Council with the hope that they will be passed on to the APC.

XII. APM 210.1.d (Mentorship)

The latest revision of the proposed language change is with UCAP for review. The Chair had a meeting with UCAP, UCAADE and UCFW Chairs via Zoom and they seemed to agree to everything. In response to some concerns, UCAP added some clarification on where mentorship might fit into teaching or service, but the document is still quite close to what CCGA gave them. Now it is in the hands of UCAP.

XIII. English Proficiency Issues on the Campuses – Vice Chair Andrea Kasko

The Council of Graduate Deans is advocating for us to repeal SR 520. That regulation states that entering foreign graduate students are required to pass the regular examination in English; this could be viewed as a violation of the University’s non-discrimination policy. The way that English language exams are used on campuses differ. CoGD agreed that there are lots of ways to assess English abilities without resorting to test scores. She asked the committee members for their thoughts on the matter. The Vice Chair suggested that the criteria should be tied to students’ first or native language and not to citizenship. The committee discussed it at length, and was not in favor of repealing 520 but, rather, changing some of the language. The Vice Chair said she would bring this back to CoGD and let them know what concerns were raised.

XIV. For Systemwide Review: Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration

The committee supported the proposed policy change. Analyst Harms will draft a letter to be sent to Council.

XV. 2021-22 Meetings – In-Person or Remote

The committee discussed whether it would be meeting in-person, remotely, or a hybrid of both in 2021-22. It was agreed that Zoom meetings are more convenient, but meeting in-person is more conducive to some of the most important committee interactions. Committee members weighed in with the ways in which remote meeting had aided their participation, particularly for faculty with family or classroom commitments. The Vice Chair suggested that the committee commit to meeting a few times in person, perhaps for the first meeting of every quarter.

XVI. Campus Reports

Berkeley – The campus just had a graduate council meeting and there was intense discussion about programs wanting to start SSGPDPs because there is no other way to get money to expand. The students were very concerned about tuition. It was felt it needed to be done out of financial necessity

Davis – The campus had nothing to report.

Irvine – The campus had meeting about English proficiency regulation and has some new wording. The campus also discussed the three-year review of SSGPDPs.

Los Angeles – The campus is dealing with the uncertainties of coming back full-time or hybrid in the fall. Commencement will be held in-person; it will be outdoor with no guests or family. There is a push and pull about budgetary decisions. The test of oral proficiency came up and the campus changed its language on it.

Merced – The campus financial senior leadership does not have academic experience, which has led to problems in purchasing items for the campus labs and in reimbursing graduate students.

Separately, the campus academic personnel office is trying to rewrite the recruitment and reappointment policy.

Riverside -The Graduate Finance Working Group is circulating a report to campus that results from two years of study on the topic. Also, a report from the UCR *ad hoc* Committee on Student Evaluations is being circulated.

San Diego – The main issue was the substantial increase in graduate housing cost. There was a discussion at grad council on this; not much clarity was brought to the issue. The policy will be deferred for at least one year.

San Francisco – The campus is still discussing how to govern graduate program membership.

Santa Barbara – The campus held a town hall for the Academic Senate and it addressed grad student issues. How should grad students respond if students are not complying with COVID regulations? How will they know if someone is vaccinated? There is a lot of dissatisfaction about lack of attention being given to grad students.

Santa Cruz – The member co-chaired a working group on grad education and how to support graduate students. They produced a very comprehensive report. It does address on how heavily we rely on TA-ships. One outcome is that the campus needs to think more creatively about how it supports students.

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Minutes taken by Fredye Harms, Committee Analyst

Attest: Amr El Abbadi, CCGA Chair