COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, June 1, 2022

I.   **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes**
        Action Taken: The agenda and minutes were approved with one correction 12-0-0.

II.   **Chair's Report**
        Chair Andrea Kasko

The Regents were at UCLA for the May meeting. Academic Council Chair Horwitz directly addressed the issue of SSGPDPs and the work that the APC workgroup had done. Chair Horwitz and UCD Professor Mary Croughan presented their report on the impacts of COVID on faculty and that was very well received.

There was a budget call on May 20. The budget includes a five-year compact, which features a base budget increase of five percent. That raise is tied to an expectation of increased UC enrollment. There is also some back-funding for replacing non-resident undergraduates with resident undergraduate enrollments. A few new line items appeared in May: one was $300M to establish a new Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy. The most disappointing reveal in the May Revise is that UC did not get the investment that it wanted for capital improvements and seismic retrofitting.

Academic Council met last week and a number of things were brought forward. Faculty retirement choices are time-limited, and the Senate is trying to find better ways to communicate that to the campuses. There was discussion about whether the Senate should issue a statement on abortion, given the potential reversal of Roe-vs-Wade. Council saw the reviews of the Dickens project and the Institute for Global Conflict; they were generally well received. There was some discussion of mental health in the aftermath of the shootings in Texas. Senate also expressed concern over faculty diversity and the fact that UC has not "moving the needle" very much. It talked about LSOE and whether they should be allowed to serve on divisional CAPS. Council contemplated departmental political statements and how to handle them when there is not unity in the department about an issue. Finally, there was a lengthy discussion about the possibility of UC offering fully online undergraduate degrees. Overall, faculty are very cautious and want to look at something less extensive, such as an online minor or a major. This discussion is not resolved.

The Chair thanked the committee for its rapid work on the UCD DNP proposal and gave special thanks to Professor Yano who served as Lead Reviewer and did a tremendous amount of work as part of her review.

III.   **Vice Chair's Report**
        Vice Chair Erith Jaffe-Berg

The Vice Chair had nothing to report.

IV.   **Announcements from Academic Affairs**
        Bart Aoki – Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office
        Pamela Jennings, Executive Director of Graduate Studies
        Todd Greenspan, Director of Academic Planning
        Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst

Executive Director Aoki said that the governor's proposal for $185M in climate resilience, research, and innovation funding for the next fiscal year made it through the May Revision; it is increasingly likely that those funds will come through the systemwide office. One hundred million dollars will likely be available through the Research Grants Program Office through competitive research funding calls, including graduate fellowships. The second $50M is for three regional innovation hubs. Thirty-five million is available for workforce development, and is also likely to include opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students: e.g., training and experiences at the regional hubs. Another area is an initiative around the transformation of innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the system. Two components of that that are high priorities for the University: one of them is a replacement of the patent system, which holds all of the patents and licenses and forms the basis for payments before royalties to come into the system. The system is 30 years old and there have been many recommendations of over the years for it to be replaced. Secondly, the Lab Fee Research Program in Residence Graduate Fellowships is very active; letters of intent are due tomorrow, with a deadline of September 8. The fellowships start April 1 of next year.

Executive Director Jennings announced that the UCHBC award announcements are being finalized. Her office was able to get additional funding for the UC HSI DDI grants. Members asked questions and there was some discussion.

Director Greenspan said that his office is working on the long-range capacity plan; there is substantial graduate student growth proposed by the campuses. He also mentioned the May Revise and the compact between Sacramento and the UC. CSU is about to introduce a bill for another doctoral degree. It is interested in having a doctor of public health, which is a different degree from the PhD in Public Health. The University has been having discussions with CSU, and CSU has indicated that it might want to launch a whole category of applied doctoral degrees. However, at this point, they're just pursuing this one particular degree.

Analyst Procello said that the Five-Year Planning Perspectives are due this month. These will be a good source of information moving forward. The Davis DNP program proposal and the approval of the fee and both are in process. The fee approval is on the President's' desk and will hopefully be approved by the end of the week. Budget Analysis and Planning did find a problem in that the program was anticipating deficits past three-year mark. He noted that, overall, the system does not have a sense of how three-year reviews of SSGPDPs are going. He questioned if CCGA should get copies of program three-year reviews.

V.   **Council of Graduate Deans' Report**
        Dean Jean-Pierre Delplanque

CoGD did not meet; there is no report.

VI.   Campus Reports

UCB- The campus had nothing to report.
UCD – Davis had a GRE requirement, and a lot of the programs have been dropping it. The campus is going to have a discussion about whether allowing the GRE to be optional is a good idea.
UCI – The campus had nothing to report.
UCLA – The campus had nothing to report.
UCM – The campus endorsed a new Graduate Students Rights and Responsibilities document written by the UCM Graduate Student Association. Coupled with the recently implemented conflict resolution infrastructure, the campus feels that it is making progress in structural changes to promote positive graduate student-adviser relationships and graduate student equity and success. In addition the grad council and the undergraduate council voted to not extend the suspension of senate review of temporary course modality changes related to Covid-19 accommodations for fall semester.
UCR –The campus has an online MBA program proposal coming for discussion tomorrow. It also had a discussion about whether to have remote participation for exams and defenses. Finally, the campus has noticed that its graduate student representatives have reduced participation in graduate council.
UCSD – The campus had nothing to report.
UCSF – The campus has been focused primarily on program and fellowship reviews. The member highlighted issues raised by this article:
https://www.science.org/content/article/controversial-plan-brings-ph-d-students-biotech-training.
UCSB – The campus comments had been discussed earlier and there were no further remarks.
 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

Academic Council Chair Horwitz shared that there had been a Regents' meeting the previous month. The governor released the May Revise, and the disappointing news was that UC was not granted the $1.6 M in deferred maintenance and retrofitting that it had sought. However, there is some hope that it will come through in the future through the legislature. On the budget call, Chair Horwitz asked for an increase in faculty salaries, and the response from the Provost was that it is not likely. In response, Chair Horwitz and Vice Chair Cochran had a conversation with the President; there may be a chance to ask about this next year. Regent Rich Leib was elected Chair of the Board as of July 1 and Gareth Elliott was elected Vice Chair. The Regents endorsed the UCOP budget. UC is also creating a central bank to ease some of the financial pressure off the campuses when they engage in certain kinds of borrowing. In his remarks to the Regents, the Senate Chair spoke about Senate achievements, such as the Climate Memorial, the revised IGETC framework, and the very important success relative to the effort to strip CCGA authority in regard to graduate program approvals. Chair Horwitz discussed AB 928. He mentioned that the next step is to gather the relevant materials and to send them to the UC, CSU and CCC senates for review. Assuming that all three senates approve it, it will give community college students a single pathway to CSU or UC. Some of the presentations at the Regents' meeting were about the importance on mentoring first-generation students and on the advancement of faculty diversity program. The report on mitigating COVID's impact on faculty was well-received. The Regents are concerned about cybersecurity, especially after the Accellion data breach. He noted that there is a "default mode" of blaming faculty for not really

cooperating in this this arena. The Regents see faculty as recalcitrant; Chair Horwitz pushed back strongly on this perception in closed session. He said that the culture of the CSOs and cybersecurity/IT departments is to not properly consult the campuses and faculty and – as a result – they impose solutions that either don't work or are, in effect, unfunded mandates The Regents asked VP of UC Health Carrie Byington to attend to physician and clinician morale. There is some belief that clinicians should be members of the Academic Senate and that a central reason for poor morale is a clinicians feel that they are "second class citizens" because they are not part of the Senate. In response, the Senate has created an *ad hoc* Health Sciences Senate Membership work group to try to determine whether clinicians should join the Senate.

Council met last week. After division comments and Council discussion of SR 474, the ethnic studies high school course, and it's alignment to UC's A-G requirements, Council sent the issue back to BOARS for further deliberation. Chair Horwitz noted that relations between BOARS and the ethnic studies faculty work group had become rather tense with the faculty work group believing BOARS is turning its back on ethnic studies. The other issue disused in Council was the memo from UCAF on the issue of political statements on department websites. Council endorsed an amended position that departments can post political statements, however they are strongly advised to include a disclaimer that the department is not speaking on behalf of the University. Statements should also be posted without signatures to reduce coercion. Council is writing a cover letter for the UCAF memo, will be posting it to the website, and will be sending it out to the campuses. Council also talked about fully online undergraduate degrees. There is a question about student residency. This topic has been roiling for three years without resolution. One suggested option is to have online minors or majors but not full degrees. Separately, there is a problem with the Navitus pharmacy; Navitus representatives came to a meeting of the Health Care Taskforce and apologized. The Task Force is also trying to monitor the RASC. In closing, Chair Horwitz reminded the committee about Council's efforts to fight Chegg and Course Hero. He and Vice Chair Cochran we had a meeting with UC Legal and IT and discussed options. There is an effort to try to engage CSU and the CCCs to see if, together, they can bring some sort of public campaign to bear that would also be tied to litigation or a lobbying effort with the legislature. Finally, Chair Horwitz mentioned the ongoing issues with the affiliation contacts between UC and religious hospitals. Progress is being made; one affiliation is ending. He noted that the impending fall of Roe-vs-Wade is going to impact abortion services at UC hospitals. There will likely be many women coming to CA for reproductive care.

VIII. **New Program Proposals**

A. Proposal for Master of Climate Solutions on the Berkeley Campus [SSGPDP]
   Lead Reviewer: Arvind Rajaraman

   The Lead Reviewer has four reviews and has communicated the findings with the program proposers; they have responded. The reviewers are all in various areas of study and their reviews were more or less positive. The UCPB review was rather negative. The main issues were the high cost of the program, the administration of the capstone project, and student placement. The program also has no internship. Santa Barbara and San Diego have competing programs that are less expensive. There is also a program at Stanford. The committee decided that there were too many questions for it to move forward with a vote. The Lead Reviewer will communicate with the proposers.

B. Proposal for a MS in Data Science in Biomedicine on the UCLA Campus [SSGPDP]
   Lead Reviewer: Erith Jaffe-Berg

   The Lead Reviewer is working to secure reviewers.

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

   The Lead Reviewer has four reviewers secured and has received two reports. They were both overall very positive. He is optimistic that the committee can review it at the July meeting.

D. Proposal for a Post-Bac DNP on the San Francisco Campus
   Lead Reviewer: Partho Ghosh

   The Lead Reviewer gave a synopsis of the program. He has received two internal reviews for it; both were very enthusiastic in their support. The quality and academic rigor of the program were perceived to be very high by both reviewers adequacy of the size and expertise of faculty again outstanding. The adequacy of the facilities and budget seems to be fine; there are no additional state funds required. The reviewers both thought the budget projections for reasonable and that target pool prospects are outstanding in nursing, especially given the stress on the healthcare system because of the pandemic.

   <u>Action Taken:</u> The proposal was approved 11-0-1, with the notation that the program take into account holistic admissions.

IX. **The Impact of Implementing Oracle on Graduate Student and Post-Doc Education**
    Erin Hestir, UC Merced

    Professor Hestir explained that prior to COVID, it was decided that all of the campuses were going to transition to the Oracle software program. It was rolled out during the pandemic. The transition did not go smoothly, and some issues still remain, including serious issues with procurement. Invoicing has substantial delays. Accounting and grant administration are very complicated and there are not easy ways to query balances. Other issues are:
    1. Impact to grad student enrollment. PI spending on contracts and grants has severely slowed down. This has slowed down in recruitments. Enrollments are then further impacted by slow procurement. This is leading in an increase on student time to graduation which impacts enrollment further still. Overall, this is resulting in a lack of enthusiasm for grant-getting.
    2. Impact to graduate and post-doc progress. Reimbursements as are happening on a 90-day process. These are substantial costs that they are not getting reimbursed. This is impacting mental health as well as financial wellbeing of post-docs has increased tensions among faculty, staff, and administration and is starting to affect graduate students.

    Professor Hestir asked that UCSD (which, with UCM, is piloting Oracle for the system) share its experience, and would like CCGA to communicate these critical problems with the administration. She also expressed the belief that the other campuses be given more lead time to work in preparing for Oracle. Chair Kasko said that other Senate committees (UCACC and UCRP) should be consulted and that CCGA should then address a letter to Council. Analyst Procello noted that the issue should perhaps be brought up with the APC.

X.   Native Identity Fraud
Sarita See, UC Riverside

Professor See explained the distinction between "identity" and "affiliation" and said that there is a problem with Native affiliation fraud. This has a very grave impact on the campuses. She said that UC has important historic and contemporary responsibilities as a land-grant university system with responsibilities to Native and Indigenous communities. The existence and tolerance of scholars who have committed fraud has a unique impact on graduate students; students find themselves questioning their own judgment. Furthermore, students who want to expose fraudulence are put in the terrible position of questioning their own advisers and faculty as well as the entire institution. As a result, many Native American studies undergraduate students are no longer considering applying to graduate school. Professor See said that the UCR graduate council has sent its grad chair and Chair Kasko a letter calling for CAP to consider making changes to APM 15. There is a question if the existing policy strong enough.

Chair Kasko said that the committee could write Council to let it know how Native identity fraud is affecting scholars. Professor See will draft a letter for CCGA so that CCGA can approach Council.

XI.   New Business

There was no new business.

The committee adjourned at 2:08 pm.

Minutes taken by Fredye Harms, Committee Analyst
Attest, Andrea Kasko, CCGA Chair