

## COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

**Minutes of Meeting**  
Wednesday, June 2, 2021

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

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

**II.** **Consultation with the Provost** – *Provost Michael Brown*

The committee was joined by the Council Chair and Vice Chair and the UCPB Chair and Vice Chair for this segment of the meeting.

The Provost said he had been studying new graduate programs. An area he has been looking particularly carefully at is master's programs. He said he had concerns about strengthening of the program reviews that take place on the campus. The campuses differ as to how they are able to mount master's programs. Provost Brown said that he feels that the President does not need to approve master's degree programs; approval can be handled by the chancellors at the campus level. He said that the President wanted the Provost to work with the Senate to make sure that the Senate's interests are addressed as the administration considers the campus delegation of authority. The Provost told the committee that he is asking for a partnership with the Senate make sure that the uniform quality of program review is maintained and that diversity concerns are adequately addressed. He asked that CCGA share its concerns with him.

The Vice Chair voiced a number of concerns related to the approval, operations, and transparency of self-supporting programs. Many other members expressed support for her statements. Member Smith expressed that CCGA review – and the inclusion of external reviewers - resulted in substantial increase in quality of the proposals. He explained that there is considerable “back and forth” between the proposers and the Lead Reviewer resulting in significant curricular improvements. He said that the quality of proposals would be lower, to the detriment of the entire system, if CCGA review is eliminated. The Chair agreed that profound examples of improvement have arisen with almost every program. In addition, CCGA input sometimes enables proposers to ask for campus resources that would otherwise not be provided.

The Provost said that he thinks there is inherent competition at the master's level. There is not that concern at the doctoral level. When well done, master's programs can generate resources of many different types that can support departmental programs. His concern is to make sure the master's reviews are more robust.

Members expressed confusion as to what “problem this is trying to solve.” They expressed the belief that campuses do not have the infrastructure for the type of review CCGA conducts. One member suggested that the proposals come to CCGA and then go to the campus chancellors. The UCPB Chair, who was a guest at the meeting, said that he did not see how moving the review to campus-level only would make the review process more robust.

The CCGA Chair closed by saying that he had been in conversation with previous CCGA chairs about this issue and they were very concerned. There is a lot of “strong-arming” that

goes on at the campuses and CCGA moderates that while ensuring equity between the campuses.

### **III. 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*

Vice President Maldonado told the committee that the personnel searches her office is undertaking are going well. However, she had recently discovered that some of the Multi-Campus Research Directors are not being evaluated on their contributions, so her office is addressing those governance issues.

The Vice President shared the Regent's Working Group on Innovation and Transfer's report. (<https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/may21/g1attach.pdf>) She reminded the committee that her office has a Knowledge Transfer Advisory Committee and that the recommendations from the Regents are in line with the work of the Committee. Vice President Maldonado said that her office is also hosting a wildfire symposia. It is open to everyone. As of the meeting date, there were at least 700 registrants, including members of the public and the state legislature. Her office is offering a series of symposia in response to the state wanting UC to be a "brain trust."

Analyst Procello told the committee that yesterday was the deadline for campuses to submit their feedback on the Five-Year Planning Perspectives. The UCLA senate was concerned about SSGPDPs and it said there was potential for reputational damage to the University. He added that there was some confusion with WASC around distance education. There is a new federal requirement for distance education, and authorization is needed for any course that is not face-to-face. This would be very difficult to honor; some UC campuses have been doing non face-to-face instruction for decades. WASC is scrambling and the University is sorting this out and working to create a process that can be acted upon.

Director Greenspan said that the governor's May Revise came out and there is now conversation about a multi-year compact similar to those that the University has had with previous governors. The Revise also keeps in language about UC having more online courses and about linking courses across all segments to align with workforce needs. The legislature has a plan to "buy down" non-residents at Berkeley, UCLA, and UCSD. They are assuming that UC is spending too much on non-residents. Separately, the graduate experience survey is out now and the response rate is low. Mr. Greenspan asked that members encourage students to respond. The Regents have asked for a presentation about the impacts of COVID on education. The Accountability Report will be presented at the July Regents' meeting and will have information on graduate student outcomes.

Executive Director Jennings shared her screen and discussed the "Growing Our Own" initiative. She said that the EVCs were looking for a way to diversify the professoriate; this is their initiative. There are two areas where they have decided to focus: one is to increase the number of the number and proportion of UC bachelor's degree recipients who get an academic doctoral degree at UC, and the other is to increase the number and proportion of UC PhD enrollees from UC as well as tribal colleges and universities and historically Black colleges and universities.

The Executive Director said that CCGA is aware of how slow the advancement has been in diversifying the University's graduate students and faculty. The goal is to have a more coordinated strategy. There are six modules that will be helpful in doing this. Each of the modules is critical: incentives, training and education, policies and practices, resources, accountability, and recognition/reward. The campuses will have to form their own goals; the framework provided by UCOP would provide a starting point. She illustrated examples of what could be used for each of the modules. The Executive Director said that the University should do more with its transfer community, such as cross-campus partnerships. She explained that there are still pockets of misperception and confusion about what one can and cannot do under the restrictions of Proposition 209.

**IV. Chair's Report – Chair Amr El Abbadi**

The Chair told the committee that Council approved the dual degree proposal and they are sending it to APC with the hopes that it be included in the Compendium.

**V. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership**

*Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Chair*

*Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Vice Chair*

Council Chair Gauvain expressed appreciation for being able to sit on the discussion with the Provost about the master's degree approval process.

She told the committee that the Feasibility Study Working Group is now at a stage where it is trying to use the Smarter Balance Test in some form. The group will be meeting over the summer; the President wants a report by early October so that he can present it to the Regents. The Council has also issued fall reopening guidelines for campuses to use as a reference point. Chair Gauvain said that she and Vice Chair Horwitz have been attending vaccine meetings. Faculty are very strongly supportive of a vaccine mandate though they are mindful of implementation realities. The President has been working on how to re-envision campus policing efforts. There is now an overview report that is out for review. It is on a 30 day timeline and is very brief. At the May Regents' meeting there was discussion about cohort-based tuition and the Regents seemed more receptive to the idea than they had been in the past. This should come up for a vote in July. There will be a change in Regents' leadership as of July 1. Cecilia Estolano will be the new chair and Rich Leib will be the new vice chair. The Senate is very pleased about the appointment of Regent Estolano as chair.

Council Vice Chair Horwitz told the committee that there was an impromptu discussion about the affiliation between UC Health and Catholic hospitals at the last Regents' meeting. The Regents will take the issue up at a special June meeting. He also said that he and the Council Chair had attended the Regents' Innovation Policy meeting. An issue that was raised was referred to as a "change in culture" where tenure and promotion criteria are tied more closely to faculty who operationalize their discoveries, especially in startup ventures. He said that the faculty had to be very vigilant about making sure that the Regents do not confuse patents with research. The Council Vice Chair told the committee that a working group has been created to look at mitigating the impact of COVID on faculty; its first meeting will be on Friday.

Committee members had many questions for the Senate leadership and there was considerable discussion about the visit from the Provost.

**VI. Vice Chair's Report – Vice Chair Andrea Kasko**

The Vice Chair reported on the meeting with CoGD. She said that the graduate student survey has a very low response and asked faculty to encourage students to participate. She told the committee that international students from the Chinese military universities can be denied visas. This could include students who started their studies. The biggest issue, she said, was the topic of students who were allowed employment overseas as GSRs or TAs during the pandemic. This was supposed to stop in fall 2021, but this may now be extending to the end of the fall quarter. The TA contracts expire in a year. There is a lot of discussion about multi-year offers of support and there is an ever-increasing need for mental health services for graduate students.

**VII. Council of Graduate Deans' Report – Dean Quentin Williams**

The Dean said that many of the issues had already been covered. He added that there was the question with what is going to happen with south Asian students and travel; the campuses were waiting for guidance on that issue. Labor relations has been a topic of extended discussion, especially with the incipient GSR unionization. The graduate deans had an considerable discussion on multi-year offers. They also discussed the May Revise and how much money might be devoted to graduate education. Finally, they talked about the federal shifts in funding and how UC can be well-poised to benefit from it.

**VIII. Student Representative Reports**

*Doreen Joseph (UCD)*

Student Representative Joseph said that the Davis students are wondering if they can keep their general assembly meetings virtual. It is more efficient and it helps with accessibility. They are trying to help graduate students take more advantage of basic needs resources.

**IX. New Program Proposals**

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

- *Lead Reviewer Donald Smith*

There is nothing new to report. The proposers are still working on revising the proposal. They have taken the reviews seriously and it has led them to deeper discussions

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

- *Lead Reviewer Fernando Torres-Gil*

This program is focused on a practitioner audience. The Lead Reviewer has a clear sense of the quality and rigor of the program and UCSDs tremendous stature and reputation. He was pleased with their detailed seriousness of the proposers' response. The committee asked for clarification on "micro-courses." Also, the committee needs the UCPB report.

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

- *Lead Reviewer Bjoern Schwer*

The Lead Reviewer received the response to the critiques he sent. Overall, reviewers had positive comments. The main thing that came up is the lack of statistics courses. This, and other concerns, were addressed by the proposers. There was concern from the committee that graduate credit was being given for courses that were not at the graduate level. The committee decided to approve the proposal with the stipulation that the proposers ensure that all required graduate courses are taught at a graduate standing.

**Action Taken: The proposal was approved 11-0-1.**

- D. Proposal for a MS in Health Data Science on the UCSF Campus [SSGPDP]  
- *Lead Reviewer Andrea Kasko*  
There are two proposals – one for a certificate and one for master’s degree. One issue that is concerning is that the campus already have a self-supporting Master’s of Applied Science and all of the courses are the same as those included in the proposal. The only difference with the master’s is the capstone project. The Lead Reviewer has received three reviews and is waiting on one more. The program is almost entirely online. The current program works really well it isn’t clear what the driving force is for the new certificate and new degree. There are a lot of other issues. Another issue is that the certificate program is state-supported, but they are charging the same tuition for both. The diversity section is a little thin.
- E. Proposal for a Certificate in Health Data Science on the UCSF Campus  
- *Lead Reviewer Andrea Kasko*  
This review was covered under the discussion of the MS degree, above.
- F. Proposal for a PhD in Data Science on the San Diego Campus  
- *Lead Reviewer Candace Yano*  
The Lead Reviewer has received letters that are very detailed and thoughtful. Overall, the reviews are positive. The course requirements resemble the master’s degree; it is not much deeper than what is required in the master’s program. UCSD does not have a statistics department, so this program would fill that role to a degree. The program needs more in-depth in the application domains. Funding for the program may not be sufficient.
- G. 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 said the program is very strong and ready for a vote. Three reviews came in; they were solid and positive. The program is poised to be one of the top programs in the field.  
**Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-2.**
- H. Proposal for a Master of Applied Chemical Sciences on the Los Angeles Campus [SSGPDP]  
- *Lead Reviewer Partho Ghosh*  
The Lead Reviewer said that he should have all the reviewers by the next meeting.
- I. Proposal for a Certificate in Equity in Brain Health on the San Francisco Campus  
- *Lead Reviewer Hrant Hratchian*  
The Lead Reviewer has secured one reviewer but has not received the review yet.
- J. Proposal for a PhD in Astronomy on the San Diego Campus  
- *Lead Reviewer Arvind Rajaraman*  
The Lead Reviewer said that this is a very strong proposal. Funding is not an issue, and they have 16 faculty to teach the classes. The Lead Reviewer received four reviews and they were all very supportive and strong. There are some minor issues that will be relayed to the proposers.  
**Action Taken: The proposal was approved 11-0-1.**
- K. Proposal for a Dual Degree MAS in International Affairs with Seoul National University at the San Diego Campus  
The Lead Reviewer is working to get reviewers.

- L. Proposal for a BS/MS 4+1 Degree in Statistics on the Riverside Campus  
***Action Taken: Dean Tantillo was assigned as Lead Reviewer.***

**X. SSGPDP Sub-Committee Update**

Vice Chair Kasko said that sub-committee had been discussing the financial impacts of SSGPDPs: returns to campuses and how the program are taxed. The sub-committee does not want to be too prescriptive but we does want more transparency within and between campuses about how the self-supporting programs are faring. She explained there are “hidden” costs such as maintenance, capital depreciation, counseling, parking, and security. There are also concerns about crowding out traditional students and state supported programs to offer self-supporting programs. Importantly, there is also the reputational cost to the UC brand. Ultimately, the sub-committee came up with a list of nine recommendations. These will be submitted to Academic Council by the chairs of UCPB and CCGA with a request that they be forwarded to the Provost.

The committee discussed the report at length, particularly concerns about the implementation of the recommendations. One member suggested that “taxes” of the SSGPDPs could be used to support efforts to monitor their strength and quality.

**XI. APM 210.1.d (Mentorship)**

The Chair said that the suggested amendments had been approved with minor modifications by UAAP and had been submitted to Vice Provost Carlson.

**XII. Campus Reports**

Berkeley – The campus has not had a graduate council meeting because it is out of session.

Davis – The campus is planning for next fall and trying to figure out oral qualifying exams.

Irvine – The campus held its three-year review of its SSGPDPs. Two have to come back in two years for additional review and one has been suspended because it was not making money, the placement was not great, and they did not have a good yield

Los Angeles – The campus will be having on-campus graduation in the open air with limited attendance. Faculty have been told that classes will be fully in person in the fall. The campus has very active ethnic centers on the campus and all of the groups have come together to promote faculty, students, and infrastructure. There is a question about what will happen to students who deferred last fall. UCLA is the only campus that does not have a reduced fees for graduate students.

Merced – The campus has not had a graduate council meeting because it is out of session.

Riverside – There is a second meeting for the language consortium with ILTI to hold specialized language programs for situations where there may not be enough people on a campus to hold a class, but there might be systemwide. This is very important for graduate students.

UCSD – The campus had nothing to report.

UCSF – The campus has been working on the governance of graduate groups work and how sexual violence and sexual harassment items get communicated to the graduate programs.

UCSB – The campus had nothing to report.

UCSC – The member was not present for updates.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Fredye Harms, Analyst.  
Attest, Amr El Abbadi, CCGA Chair