

## COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

**Minutes of Meeting**  
Wednesday, June 3, 2020

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

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

**II. Chair's Report - Chair Ramesh Balasubramaniam**

The Chair said that this has been a difficult week for the nation in light of the protests surrounding the killing of George Floyd.

He said that the Council approved CCGA's motion for the 18/12 limit; the Council of Graduate Deans also approved it, and both send it to the Provost. This probably has implications for normative time to degree.

The Chair reported that CCGA is still seeking clarification on what is going to happen with international students in the fall. President Trump has issued an executive order about Chinese students with ties to the Chinese military academic complex. The University is anticipating that this will have a negative effect on Chinese student intake. The chairs of CCGA, UCFW and UCRP wrote a letter to the President and the Vice President of Research and Innovation asking that they take it up with UCDC to see what can be done. There is a lot of uncertainty.

Executive Director Pamela Jennings said that her office would share what information it could as soon as it was able but that right now there are a number of questions that remain unanswered. She said that there will be implications at the campus level and system wide. Members discussed what they were experiencing on their campuses and asked questions.

**III. Vice Chair's Report – Vice Chair Amr El Abbadi**

The Vice Chair said that everything he was going to mention had already been discussed.

**IV. Announcements from Academic Affairs**

*Theresa Maldonado, Vice President of Research and Innovation*

*Todd Greenspan, Director of Academic Planning*

*Pamela Jennings, Executive Director of Graduate Studies*

*Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst*

Vice President Theresa Maldonado said that President Napolitano had asked Executive Vice President Carrie Byington to form a task force on contact tracing and testing. The first couple of meetings entailed presentations from experts about how to get on campus on the fall. There is disagreement on how the University should move forward. Getting students onto campus is a high-risk event.

The VCRs are still meeting all the time; they have been working very hard on detailed research plans. All of the campuses have launched their plans starting June 1 – the plans are very detailed. The national labs also have to coordinate with the DOE. They are trying to be as consistent as possible. They are looking at buildings and which ones to open. A lot of coordination is happening

on the campuses. Students may be coming in from their homes which may be multi-generational. What happens if an outbreak happens: there are fiscal, reputational, and legal implications. She said that the VCRs felt that the University needs to have systemwide town halls to inform students, faculty, and staff around issues related to the pandemic.

Two or three of the campuses are on record for saying they will open in a hybrid state and other campuses are still undecided. Members discussed resources for sanitation and hygiene which are scarce already. Ms. Maldonado said that getting the supplies is a bottleneck on the campuses. The University is going to have to scale the supplies as it brings students back. Also, some faculty have said that they are refusing to come back and are insisting on online teaching.

The President and the ten chancellors signed a letter that went to the state department and homeland security making a plea about visas and OPT programs. The Vice President said she did not know what kind of response they received. FGR is working on communications with the Hill. She said they are really racing against the clock and are still continuing to put together any guidance that they can. Members discussed this and had questions. She said that the meticulously prepared research ramp up plans are something to watch. She remarked that members should stay in touch with their VCRs. She said that there is some talk about bringing students on in a cohort fashion.

Members said that they and their colleagues felt out of the loop. Ms. Maldonado said that a systemwide webinar might help with that. Faculty are inundated with messages and information seems to be lost.

Director Todd Greenspan said that his office is doing a lot of monitoring of the undergraduate enrollment. There has been a lot of waitlist activity, and some campuses have students who have left for other campuses. San Diego has announced its Return to Learn campaign and there seems to be competition for non-resident students. Campuses that are announcing that they will have open campuses in the fall are having a lot of students. Spring and summer FTE are way up but the state is providing no money to fund additional enrollment.

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

*Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Council Chair*

*Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Vice Chair*

Academic Council Chair Bhavnani said that the governor announced that the UC must take a 10 percent cut. The governor said there was a \$54B shortfall in the state funding based on the projected increase in revenues. The legislature said there was a \$34B shortfall based on the last year's budget. The budget has to be passed by June 15. The governor is thinking of giving the UC a cut of \$327M and if the state gets money back from federal government he will restore those cuts. The legislature is thinking of a \$200M cut but that would only be implemented if the federal funds did not come in. Both the Senate and the Assembly need to work out what they want and then they need to persuade the governor. There is a small group of five people who are working out a process and a timeline for a Task Force that would look at how to think about reductions in expenditures. It is going to advise the president. The membership of taskforce would be taken from the taskforce that was set up in 2009: there are four representatives from the Senate: the chairs of UCBP, UCFW, UCAP, and the Chair of the Senate. The Chair said she is going to see if the chair of UCAADE could be added.

Nothing has been decided yet about furloughs. The chancellors are anxious to make a statement about where they are in the fall. The Senate is working very hard to see if there is borrowing option so there don't have to be furloughs.

The Regents voted unanimously to accept the President's recommendation about the SATs: until fall 2022, test optional, fall 2023-24, test blind, and by fall 2025 a new test should be developed. The task force that produced the report was not happy with the President's recommendations. Maybe UC can work with CSU to develop a new test because both systems use the A-G requirements. Then people would be able to apply to CSU and UC at the same time. How will this new system support diversity. Some of the Regents are very keen on Smarter Balance; the task force said do not use Smarter Balance.

Senate has set up a Climate Crisis Task Force; its first point is to accelerate de-carbonization and work on education on the campuses. The Senate Chair told members to talk to their CoCs if they are interested in participating.

The Extending Faculty Diversity Task Force has been extended for another two years to apply for grants from OP and other places. It has about eight people on and it is being chaired by the divisional chair at Santa Cruz. It is about retention of non-white faculty.

The UCM chancellor has been announced: Juan Sánchez Muñoz. Nathan Brostrom will be coming back to OP.

The Chair said that faculty had seen the statements from the chancellors about the George Floyd protests and now Council will have a statement. The students also have written a letter. The University is going to have a moment of silence tomorrow for a memorial at 11 am for George Floyd.

Chair Balasubramaniam told the committee that the University of Minnesota has said it will not work with the Minneapolis police any more. He expressed an opinion that Council and the administration should make a similar statement about militarized police on the campuses. The Senate Chair agreed and recommended that committees write letters to Council on the issue.

Student Representative Valeria Orue spoke to the difficulty she and other students are having concentrating on work during this time. She also spoke about the need for conversation and action.

## **VI. Graduate Issues in Light of COVID-19**

Chair Balasubramaniam reminded the committee that CCGA sent a message to the Grad Deans asking them to be more flexible this year. He said that he was hoping by the end of this year that the committee would have a set of alternatives and best practices, but COVID and the George Floyd protests have required too much bandwidth.

The Provost's Office is asking if conversations have occurred to see if graduate councils have made any exceptions related to COVID. There is also the question of normative time adjustments. The Provost wants to know - by campus - what the decisions have been.

The committee discussed a letter from the Student Association asking that faculty show compassion and leniency in grading and testing due to the trauma related to the death of George Floyd. The Chair said that faculty should acknowledge the difficulty students are experiencing and that he and the chair of the Committee on Educational Policy could draft a letter to be shared systemwide.

Davis has had the normative time discussion. The campus is in the process of deciding what to do with the GRE and the TOEFL for next year. Students do not need to count the COVID

quarters as part of time to degree. The campus is extending the S/U grading for over the summer.

UCM did unsatisfactory/satisfactory grading and allowed that programs that traditionally are taken for a grade for their graduate degrees to have some flexibility. Classes that are taken U/S can still be counted toward the degree. The campus has had no discussion about normative time to degree in the context of COVID.

UCLA has not made any significant discussion of normative time to degree. A lot of focus has been around international students. The campus is still waiting to hear about if they can be paid or if they can have tuition remission. The campus is very concerned about the Executive Order regarding Chinese students. Also, there are a set of issues related to self-supporting programs that have 90% enrollment of students from abroad. On a separate note, the member also mentioned that it was very disturbing to all students to have the national guard going through Westwood and the UCLA stadium being used as a holding cell for protesters.

UCI has been trying to talk about English proficiency both for students and for teaching. The campus will not be requiring the TOEFL for admission next year, however, students will need to be proficient in English in order to teach – usually when students are admitted the University says it will give them a teaching job. That is not resolved and it has created a lot of trouble. In terms of normative time to degree, when students get their acceptance letter, it ties support to normative time to degree. SIRs are high in the graduate programs at UCI, which is favorable, except that the campus does not have money for them. The campus is counting on summer melt.

UCSD passed a one quarter blanket extension on time to degree and did see ad hoc requests for changes for requirements to graduate program such as first year exams that are oral exams –one department wants to waive them. The campus is doing its Return to Learn program which rolled out June first, but it seems chaotic so far.

UCB has issues very similar to what is going on elsewhere. Normative time adjustments are going through and S/U grading is being recommended for graduate courses except where grades are needed. There has been a long standing policy about the GREs being a department issue. The grad council had its last meeting in May.

UCR is holding to normative time for degrees because of the concern that there will otherwise be no funding to support the students in extended time. The GRE is remaining as it is. There is a pivot towards holistic review and departments are asked to reflect back the rubrics that are being used to assess incoming students. The member said that custodial service on the campus needs to be addressed; it is a very big issue. Prior to COVID, it was already at a crisis level. If students and faculty and staff are going to come back onto campus, it needs attention; it is a health and safety issue. There was a pushback from faculty regarding hybrid classes – they are embedding two teaching modes into one. It doubles the work needed by faculty.

UCSB took a series of actions in terms of existing graduate students. It extended the time to degree and also sent the departments a memo from the graduate division saying they should consider allowing S/U grading. The graduate division has been working hard to disperse the CARES money. The first round has been done; it being dispersed as a check. The campus has students who are coming next year that they could defer up to a year and still have their financial packet. Some departments want to understand the logistics of freezing the admissions cycle - the graduate dean mentioned that it would be a better idea to reduce the number rather than not to do admissions at all.

UCSF has not had the normative time to degree discussion. It is speculated that the campus is planning on having classes remote thorough fall quarter and there are plans being made for some things that need to be done in person, like labs. There is a mood of outrage and frustration in the wake of the George Floyd killing.

UCSC has extended for one year for students to advance to candidacy and so that has extended normative time for a year. The campus has received a number of requests of to deliver things in hybrid modes in the fall. One significant concern is if there is no extension of funding when the time to degree has been extended; there are concerns about funding obligations. NRT will not be waived. TAs have not been getting the support they need and are not getting messages about what resources are available.

## VII. TOEFL and English Testing for Graduate Admissions

The Chair said that the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is a requirement for all non-native speakers who attend UC. At the graduate level, it is expected that the students take the TOEFL and post a score. There are two versions of the TOEFL – one is internet-based and the other is paper-based. UC does have some exceptions for students who do not make the requisite numbers on their test as long as they are not TAing a course. Right now, the TOEFL is not being administered worldwide; it is not available in China and Iran right now and perhaps other areas. CCGA needs to decide if we are going to make any recommendations about this.

The committee decided it was not going to make any recommendations at this time about the TOEFL.

## VIII. New Program Proposals

- A. Proposal to establish a Dual Master of Financial Engineering (MFE) – Asia Pacific with the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University (Master of Finance) [SSGPDP] on the Los Angeles campus  
– *Lead Reviewer LeRoy Westerling*  
The committee will discuss the appeal at the July meeting, when the Lead Reviewer has returned.
- B. Proposal to establish a Masters in Development Engineering on the Berkeley campus [SSGPDP]  
-- *Lead Reviewer Linda Cohen*  
The Lead Reviewer commented that it is hard to get external reviews during COVID. There are six core courses for this program. Five of them are new and one has already been developed at Berkeley  
**Action Taken: The proposal was approved 9-0-2.**
- C. Proposal to establish a Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) on the Los Angeles campus [SSGPDP]  
-- *Lead Reviewer Don Smith*  
The Lead Reviewer has received two out of three reviews. The reviews are overwhelmingly positive.
- D. UC Irvine School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Proposal Review  
– *Lead Reviewer Ramesh Balasubramaniam*  
A full set of reviews is in and the Lead Reviewer has the response from the school The reviewers were very positive about the school and its rigors. Some of the courses that are

offered on the PharmD program focus on alternative medicine. The diversity section is very good.

**Action Taken: The proposal was approved 9-0-2.**

- E. Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Business Analytics on the Riverside campus [SSGPDP]

-- *Lead Reviewer Andrea Kasko*

The Lead Reviewer got three reviews on plus the UCPB review. She is sending the comments from the reviewers back to the proposers to get more detail on faculty compensation. The proposal should be ready for a vote in July.

- F. *Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Health Informatics on the San Diego campus.*

**Action Taken: Andrea Kasko was assigned as Lead Reviewer.**

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

- A. Proposal to discontinue the Health Care Executive MBA Program on the Irvine Campus

**Action Taken: The proposal was approved 9-0-2.**

#### **X. Campus Updates**

Campus updates were discussed earlier.

The committee adjourned at 2:58.