

COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

I. Approval of the Agenda

Action Taken: *The agenda was approved 11-0-0.*

II. Welcome, Orientation, and Chair's Report

– Chair Andrea Kasko

The Chair shared her screen and discussed the roles responsibilities of CCGA. She also gave an overview of the proposal review process for lead reviewers.

Chair Kasko reviewed topics from the Academic Council meeting. She discussed campus reopening and said there had been – systemwide - a large degree of compliance and fairly low rates of virus positivity. There are ongoing issues about some instructors wanting to remain remote. Disabled students at UCLA have been insisting on recordings of lectures.

The Academic Senate has been discussing businesses like Chegg and Course Hero. These organizations facilitate academic dishonesty and also solicit problem sets and instructor notes. The Senate had a discussion with UC Legal about ways to possibly stop this conduct. Possible options include litigation and legislation. There is also the possibility of bolstering internal processes; UC could increase consequences and enforcement, but that might be difficult to implement.

The Senate discussed mentorship and the APM. Over the past several years, CCGA had worked with UCAP to come up with language for APM 210.1.d that would include provisions for mentorship in evaluation of merit and promotion. UC Labor Relations is currently consulting with the Vice Chancellors of Academic Personnel about the proposed changes.

Lastly, Class A Lecturers have unanimously authorized a potential strike coming this quarter/ semester.

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 discussed the wildfire symposia her office had held. The goal of the symposia was to try to build stronger relationships with Sacramento. She said that the efforts appeared to be successful. The University has hundreds of faculty engaged in wildfire research. The Vice President reported that she is looking at developing student think tanks to address issues like climate change. Her office will be meeting with state agencies to develop joint strategies on climate. The National Laboratories are directly engaged as are ANR and UC Health. The Global Climate Leadership Council is meeting to focus on how to make the campuses carbon neutral.

The Council of VCRs has been meeting to make sure that the research labs are being opened carefully. The University is still addressing foreign influence issues and some policy issues. Now that COVID is subsiding to a degree, UC can finally start strategizing at the system level.

Committee members had many questions about the status of research and funding for graduate students. The Chair asked how the Vice President's office was looking at the long-term impact on research with regard to funding, student progress, and PI progress. One member noted that a lot of PIs have decided to continue supporting existing students which means they cannot support new students. This has cascading consequences.

Executive Director Jennings remarked that her office is trying to expand and improve the pathways to academic doctoral degrees through programs such as Growing Our Own, which was launched last year. The goal of the program is to increase the number and proportion of UC PhD students who come from institutions with historically diverse populations. Executive Director Jennings said that the program is also intended to increase the number and proportion of UC undergraduates who pursue a PhD. Academic Affairs has been working to create a Regents' Item on Growing Our Own and will pose the item as an ask in the Regents' budget.

A new effort from Ms. Jennings' office is an online course that would bring together UC, CSU, and the Community Colleges to expose students to research earlier in their academic careers. Her office is developing an RFP with the intent of launching a course that would be available in about a year. The Executive Director also shared that her office has some one-time funds for UC LEADS, which is the only designated program UC has for undergraduates in STEM to pursue graduate degree. It has been very successful over the years. The program would like to enroll more students because only half of the participants choose UC. Finally, Executive Director Jennings' office has just released the call for the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Doctoral Diversity Initiative RFP. Submissions will be in the early part of 2022. This fall, the program has fellows at all 10 campuses for the first time.

Director Greenspan told the committee that the President has announced that he wants to grow the University by 20,000 students by 2030. The preliminary thinking was that number would be comprised of 16,000 undergraduates and 4,000 graduate students. Mr. Greenspan noted that 4,000 is about the percent of graduate students UC has now, so that number could perhaps be increased. All of the campuses are feeling incredible strain from the recent enrollment growth, and they are unsure how they will handle an additional 20,000 students. There has been discussion about alternatives to traditional enrollment growth such as off-campus centers, partnerships with regional universities, and education abroad. The Regents are very interested in exploring online education, which has its own challenges. The chancellors are meeting today to form a working group directed at a capacity study. For this year, enrollments reflect approximately 1800 more graduate students, primarily at UCLA and UCSD. The University is putting together the proposed state budget for 2022-23 and preliminary discussions are to ask for state funding for an additional 500 graduate students.

Analyst Procello provided the committee with an overview of the program review process. The UC Graduate Student Experience Survey (UCGSES) was just completed and will probably happen every other year. He shared his screen and went over the UCGSES survey results with the committee. There will be a Regents' item on the results of the first survey. The question of Master's degree review will be discussed at APC this month. Mr. Procello said that he had already received feedback on the Berkeley college pre-proposal and that he would be sending the Senate a copy of the letter.

IV. Vice Chair's Report – Vice Chair Erith Jaffe-Berg

The CoGD is inviting the President to speak in November, and discussed what issues it wants to bring up. The COGD also will be meeting with Provost Brown. The graduate deans discussed the GSR unionization and the issue of graduate student housing. There will be more to report at the next meeting.

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

Dean Delplanque said that the CoGD has been discussing its relationship with State Government Relations and how to better partner with them in advocacy for the University. The Council has a good relationship with Federal Government Relations, and would like to duplicate that at the state level. Advocacy efforts are driven by the President's agenda, and the deans would like to reinforce the need for state support and advocacy. Mr. Delplanque discussed some of the actions that have been taken in response to COVID such as expanding the number of quarters a student can TA. This issue might be recurring at CoGD because there is a sense of inequity between GSRs and TAs. Another concern is the NRST policies beyond the systemwide three-year waiver.

VI. MRU Reviews

A. The Dickens Project (UCSC)

Action Taken: The review was assigned to Erith Jaffe-Berg.

B. The Institute for Global Conflict and Cooperation (UCSD)

Action Taken: The review was assigned to Adam Sabra.

VII. Campus Reports

UCB – The Berkeley GC discussed rules for hybrid exams for students. It also discussed a change in English communication skill requirements for GSIs.

UCD – The GC's first meeting is tomorrow. The campus COVID situation is good.

UCI – The GC meets next week. There are no updates at this time

UCLA – The GC has not met yet. The campus has a new graduate dean and the EVCP just announced she is stepping down after only two years. The campus is changing from Moodle to Canvas. The GC continues to see new proposals for SSGPDPs.

UCM – The campus has been teaching in-person for awhile. Vaccination rates are very high and mask compliance and infection rates have not been an issue. The GC has been working with the GSA to assert a graduate rights and responsibility document. The campus is struggling with the expiration of the WASC accreditation waiver for online classes.

UCR – The campus is concerned that the self-supporting MBA is "cannibalizing" the state-supported in areas such as staff time. The second issue has to do with Native American identity theft and fraudulence. The campus has a scholar with a long-standing claim of identity with the Cherokee nation who was exposed in a New York Times over the summer. As a result, Native American graduate students deciding to leave Native American Studies on the campus.

UCSD – The GC had an emergency meeting because it looks like the campus will not hold program review this December. This is the second year in a row it has foregone program review.

UCSF – The GC has not met yet. COVID cases are low and people are wearing masks. Lab density is back to normal.

UCSB – The inability of graduate students to find housing interferes with their ability to attend classes and to serve as TAs in-person. TA-ing online has received some criticism. These discussions are ongoing.

UCSC – The campus has a new graduate dean. Last year, there was a joint working group to understand the needs of graduate students, and this year is the implementation of their plan. The campus continues to look at the effects of the pandemic on research and time to degree. Graduate students do not want to be on the front lines of enforcing safety mandates.

VIII. GSR Unionization

The UC Student Researchers United was a campaign to form a union to improve working conditions for student researchers. They submitted more than 17K signed authorization cards. The Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) verified around 11K signatures, and they are currently in discussion with the UC to define the members of the union. People with GSR or GSA titles are covered, but the question is whether people with outside fellowship or traineeships would be included. The committee had questions and discussed this topic.

IX. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Chair

Susan Cochran, Academic Council Vice Chair

Chair Horwitz discussed the Regents' Academic and Student Affairs Committee and its conversation about student basic needs. The state allocated money to the CalFresh program; housing and food insecurity continue to be considerable problems on the campuses. The state also provided one-time funding to SAPEP (Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnerships) and student mental health. The Regents had a report on student diversity. The proportion of Native American and African American students who come to UC is smaller than the proportion of those who graduate from high school and are eligible for admission. There is also a graduation gap between URM students and their white and Asian counterparts. The Regents are very concerned about transfer between the community colleges and UC. The University has lived up the 2:1 freshman-to-transfer ratio, and the data show that after about a quarter, the transfer students do as well as students who came in as freshmen.

AB 928 was just signed by the governor. The Senate opposed it because it was very trying to meet the problems of transfer with a "blunt instrument" (the ADT – Associate Degree for Transfer). The University will have to find a way to adapt to the new bill.

Another significant Regents committee is Finance and Capital Projects. The Regents approved the UCSC LRDP (Long Range Development Plan) which was mostly concerned with housing. They also approved Berkeley's effort to build student housing on the People's Park site.

Chair Horwitz discussed the budget coming from the Regents. Campuses with a high percentage of non-resident students will have to cut that to an 18 percent level over five years. The legislature has agreed to backfill the difference in revenue. Campuses that are below 18 percent will be allowed to grow to that limit. Over-enrollment (unsupported by the state) has led to higher student-to-faculty ratios and lower student satisfaction. Forty percent of students say they do not know a professor well enough for a letter of recommendation.

The Regents' agenda featured an important item on increasing the enrollment capacity of the UC. The President said he would like to have 20K new students by 2030. He explained that the University could look at expansion of summer session courses, reorientation of Extension, buying failed colleges, and increasing of online education.

The Senate has been talking about how to fix the RASC (Retirement Administration Service Center), which has been plagued by software problems. Many UC retirees (or would-be retirees) have not been paid or their insurance has not been transferred. New VP of HR, Cheryl Lloyd, has met with the Senate and is moving to fix the situation.

Chair Horwitz noted that the Senate leadership and CCGA Chair Kasko have been discussing the Provost's desire to devolve authority for program approval from systemwide to the campuses and that he and Vice Chair Cochran would be talking to President Drake about it later in the week.

There is an issue about ILTI (now called UC Online). There has been a lot of difficulty with it over the past few years; the coordination between campuses and departments has been spotty. The Senate is trying to address its governance system. Similarly, the Regents' Initiative on Innovation and Entrepreneurship may result in a revision of the APM on how to reward faculty who engage in certain kinds of innovation and take it to market.

Finally, the Senate has been trying to pursue a strategy to get UC Legal to create an institutional response to the problem of academic integrity and the theft of intellectual property by "tutoring" websites such as Chegg and Course Hero.

The committee had a number of questions for the Senate leadership.

X. Master's Degree Proposal Review Discussion

Chair Kasko informed the committee that Provost Brown proposed to delegate authority for proposal review from CCGA to the campuses. CCGA and UCPB issued a joint letter at the end of last year that outlined the problems the committees found with this proposal. The committees and the Senate suggested forming a faculty/administrative working group to study the proposal. The feeling is that campuses want quicker review of SSGPDP proposals. Chair Kasko told the committee that there were inherent conflicts of interest: significant pressure to approve these proposals can be exerted on local GCs. Systemwide review provides resource reviews, consideration of strains on state-supported programs, and systemwide consistency. The committee had considerable questions and there was much discussion. Chair Kasko noted that problems with "self-supporting," expensive degree programs had been reported in many news sources and that UC does not want to damage its reputation as a provider of quality, rigorous, public education.

XI. SSGPDP Report Update and Action Plan

Chair Kasko explained that for the past several years there has been a joint working group between CCGA and UCPB to examine self-supporting programs. Last year, the group focused closely on financial aspects and the hidden costs of these programs. In 2019, CCGA sent a memo to the Senate about investigation of SSGPDP revenues. One of the recommended tactics was to have self-supporting programs track their spending. CCGA and UCPB came away unconvinced that indirect costs are being adequately accounted. It is unclear that SSGPDPs are truly self-supporting; there is also grave concern that they are impacting state-supported programs. The Chair went over the recommendations from last year's joint committee. She explained that she and UCPB Chair McGarry will convene a working group of chairs of local GCs and CBPs to look at last year's report and consider standards that can be held to across the system. One of the tasks of this working group would be to collect best practices and try to determine ways to reveal hidden or intangible costs.

The Chair asked if CCGA/UCPB would be able to officially stipulate reporting requirements (particularly financial) for SSGPDPs. Director Greenspan said that the SSGPDP policy was adopted by the APC, and revisions/addendums would need to go to that body.

XII. New Program Proposals

- A. Proposal for a Dual Degree MAS in International Affairs with Seoul National University at the San Diego Campus
- *Lead Reviewer Donald Smith*
The Lead Reviewer is waiting on a response to his report from the campus.
- B. Proposal for a BS/MS 4+1 in Microbiology on the Riverside Campus
- *Lead Reviewer Arvind Rajaraman*
The Lead Reviewer sent a communication to the director over the summer and got a response an hour ago. The exam track has been fixed, but the thesis program still seems to be problematic. The committee had considerable concern about the units being counted.
- C. Proposal for a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics on the San Diego Campus
- *Lead Reviewer Dean Tantillo*
The Lead Reviewer noted that the Biochemistry department is extant at UCSD and the campus wants to make it its own degree. The courses already exist, and there are no changes or costs associated with this proposal. The two reviews were very positive.
Action Taken: The proposal was approved – 11-0-1.
- D. Pre-Proposal for a new College of Computing, Data Science, and Society on the Berkeley Campus
- *Lead Reviewer Erith Jaffe-Berg*
The Lead Reviewer noted that this will be the first new college or school on the Berkeley campus since the 1960s. There are some concerns about administration. The division Graduate Council had some significant reservations: they see the structure of the college as non-sustainable. The objections relate to the structural concern with the interaction with the COE. They want a better explanation of why there should be a new college. The campus needs more local consultation.
Action Taken: CCGA will report its findings and concerns to the Senate Chair.
- E. Proposal for a Master of Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics on the Berkeley Campus [SSGPDP]
- *Lead Reviewer Bjoern Schwer*
The Lead Reviewer said that he would have more to discuss in November.
- F. Proposal for a PhD in Film and Media Studies on the Irvine Campus
- *Lead Reviewer Partho Ghosh*
The Lead Reviewer said that he had four reviewers, and that the two who have responded have been quite positive. He expects to have a report at the next meeting.

XIII. New Business

There was no new business.

The committee adjourned 3:19 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by CCGA Analyst Fredye Harms
Attest: Andrea M. Kasko, Chair