

COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

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

II. Chair's Report

Chair Andrea Kasko

The Chair provided updates from the Council meeting. There is a push to increase enrollment by 20K (16K undergraduate, 4K graduate) by 2030. This number does not include students in self-supporting programs. The approach to academic dishonesty with organizations such as Chegg and Course Hero is moving toward digital copyright on all lecture materials and then submitting takedown requests. It is recommended that faculty – when publishing slides or materials – include a statement that they are the intellectual property of the instructor and are copyrighted.

Talks with the Unit-18 lectures have stalled. The union rejected the last, best, and final offer of the UC. Some members of the bargaining unit were not aware of the details of the final offer, and that has driven the union back to the bargaining table. There was a recent approval of legislation for a universal degree curriculum for transfer students. There are ongoing discussions about mitigating the effects of COVID on faculty, particularly junior faculty. However, there also needs to be consideration of graduate students and postdocs who are even more vulnerable than the junior faculty. The feeling is that there will be many years of fallout related to the effect of the pandemic on academic careers.

Chair Kasko informed the committee that she had taken the issue of students who wanted to TA remotely to Council and it generated a complex discussion. It will be discussed again at the November Council meeting. There was also a discussion at Council about academic freedom and controversial posts to campus websites. It needs to be clear that such posts do not represent University position or a department position.

Regent Chair Estolano had a very positive visit with the Council and seems to recognize the importance of graduate education. She said UC needs to spend more money with women- and minority-owned businesses, and needs to learn how to do that effectively. She also said that any enrollment growth needs to come with faculty and staff augmentation. She does not believe that remote instruction is the answer for increasing expansion.

Chair Kasko and UCPB Chair McGarry met with the Grad Council and CPB chairs to discuss SSGPDPs. This is a follow up to the report on self-supporting programs conducted by CCGA and UCPB last year. The next steps are addressing challenges and answering questions. If authority for approving self-supporting (and other Master's degree) programs is to be delegated to the campuses, graduate councils are going to have to be very strong.

There is a push is to keep individuals on external fellowship out of the union because the University cannot make employment stipulations or requirement for outside fellowships that have their own conditions. There is also a lot of talk about cohort tuition. Additionally, there is a

push to decrease international student enrollment to 18 percent within five years. This will have a significant impact on some campuses.

III. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Erith Jaffe-Berg

The Vice Chair said that several unionization meetings had been held to explain the difference between GSR and fellowship students. Bargaining has been extended to November 15. President Drake joined the CoGD and a main issue that was discussed was advocacy for graduate education as a whole. The President asked if the campuses could agree on some common areas of support. He also talked about the urgency of mental health funding. He mentioned having research associates teach instead of TAs. He is looking to different kinds of employees, rather than graduate students, for teaching. The Vice Chair noted that the humanities and arts rely on TAs for funding. Housing was brought up as a continuous issue. The President talked about the growth in investments this year. Finally, it was suggested that a system-level advisory board be developed to advocate for graduate education. This suggestion was welcomed by the graduate deans, but was not embraced by the President, who said that there were already a number of stakeholders involved in advising about graduate education.

The discussion at UCACC was quite heated and centered on the Accellion data breach and new systems that are being implemented. UC has been sued because of the breach and has employed an outside team to do forensic research on what happened; the report is almost finished. There are almost 20 recommendations, some of which will be made public. The University is considering extending the credit monitoring that it offered employees and their families as a result of the breach. UCSD wrote a letter regarding the breach and UCACC wants to review it and see if they want to opine on it. Separately, it was mentioned that each campus procures software on its own, and it may be better to have it centralized for cost. This may also cut down on the vendor risk assessments process, which tends to slow procurement on the campuses. UCSD commented that the UCPath onboarding process had been painful, and the new Oracle purchasing system has been “disastrous” on the campuses.

IV. Announcements from Academic Affairs (part 1)

Deborah Motton, Executive Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination

Randi Jenkins, Senior Research Policy Manager

Todd Greenspan, Director of Academic Planning

Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst

Executive Director Motton introduced herself and raised the topic of why some state agencies do not allow for funds to be used for tuition and fees for graduate students. She introduced Ms. Jenkins, who is liaison with state agencies, and asked if she could shed some light on the topic. Ms. Jenkins said that she had come across three positions that agencies have taken in protesting the inclusion of tuition and fees in grant and contract budgets. The first position is that the state pays UC “plenty” of money (per the state agencies) and therefore these costs should not also be attributed to individual contracts and grants. The UC receives contracts and grants from approximately 65 different state agencies and oftentimes they're very, very distinct in how they operate, despite best efforts from the state legislature, UC, and CSU to try to get some uniformity among these transactions. The second argument is that the state agency is willing to pay salary and benefits of those individuals participating in a funded project, but tuition and fees are not really a benefit. The third position that Ms. Jenkins has heard – which she says she has been effective at debunking - is that certain agencies were willing to reimburse UC for tuition

and fees for in-state graduate students but not out-of-state students. She met with the agencies that were making that argument and explained that this could be considered discrimination and could encourage faculty to select students based on where they come from and not solely on the merits they can bring to the project. She said that she believes this third argument has been brought to a stop. The committee had some questions for the visitors.

Analyst Procello told the committee that both the Senate letter and the administration letter regarding the Berkeley college pre-proposal have been sent. He explained the relationship between the College of Engineering and College of Computing. He said that the computer science programs would continue to reside in the College of Engineering. He also said that faculty appointments between the College of Computing and the College of Engineering need to be worked out. There were questions and some discussion.

Director Greenspan said that his department was in the middle of collecting the fall enrollment figures and it looks like graduate enrollments are fairly robust this year. A lot of students are continuing as well as new ones joining. His office is also putting together the budget plan for 2022-23 and the campuses will be submitting their budgets in the next week or two. The three campuses that are over 18 percent in non-resident admissions would be expected to start shifting those numbers to California enrollments. He added that the Budget Office was going to ask for an increase in 500 graduate students.

V. Council of Graduate Deans' Report

– *Dean Jean-Pierre Delplanque*

Dean Delplanque remarked that the conversation the graduate deans have been having regarding the unionization of GSRs really revolves around whether or not fellowship recipients should be considered. There was a strong feeling on the CoGD that the concept of “employee” didn't apply foremost to fellowship recipients. They discussed this with President Drake. The post-docs are unionized already, but their contract just expired. The conversation with President Drake about a systemwide graduate education advisory board got a lot of traction with the deans. They are going to follow up with graduate students.

VI. Dual Degree Programs

– *Chair Andrea Kasko*

The Chair told the committee that this issue had arisen at UCLA and that she had reached out to Chris Procello about how credits are counted. WASC states that no more than 25 percent of course credits being offered at the graduate level may be double-counted. The question is how do the campuses “do the math.” The Chair shared her screen and went through a sample dual degree and illustrated the ways to count the units. The committee discussed it at length. Ultimately, the Chair asked that any campus that has a policy on the counting of units share it with the committee.

VII. Campus Reports

UCB – The campus had nothing to report.

UCD – The campus is discussing whether or not postdocs should be involved in the reviews of graduate programs, and asked for other campuses' input.

UCI – The School of Population and Public Health is making its way through the committee. Near the end of last year, the campus closed admissions to an SSGPDP on the grounds that it

wasn't making any money, but the program complained, so the campus has reopened that with a "test year" for the program.

UCLA – there has been a little tension between the council and the COVID Recovery Task Force. That has created a little turbulence. The campus has also had a perennial request about the DNP – it is currently quite small, but the department wants to grow. They don't have a thesis, they do a project that is related to practice. You need two people to oversee it. One of the arguments they have used is that several other campuses have already cut down to two to three people (Irvine, Davis, UCSF) The member asked how other grad councils handle it.

UCM –The provost has expressed a desire to expand the number of graduate student instructors. The campus is looking at what frameworks it can have in place to make sure that is done for the benefit of students. The campus has an ongoing struggle with how to define hybrid education – is it remote or in-person?

UCR – The ongoing issues is problems confronting one SSGPDP program - a professional MBA program. Grad council issued a moratorium on admissions starting this fall and the grad council is awaiting response on three issues. The campus is deciding whether to extend emergency pedagogy and come back in January.

UCSD – The campus had nothing to report.

UCSF – Many of the issues mentioned are also being discussed. One thing that will come to CCGA are the multiple program reviews of Master's and PhD programs.

UCSB -The campus has a new process with regard to program reviews. It was taking too long to get through program reviews; the campus is trying to streamline the process.

UCSC – The campus is also having tensions around end of the pandemic and the administration sent out a request for delegation of authority to determine which classes will be remote because of housing. There was another concern about undocumented students and international students and how they would be paid.

VIII. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Susan Cochran, Academic Council Vice Chair

The Chair was not able to join because he was presenting to the legislature.

There is a workgroup report on mitigating the effects of COVID on faculty careers; it has been shared with Provost Brown and it has now been shared with the campuses. Faculty who were greatly disadvantaged by COVID should have this taken into account during their review. The leadership has also been helping climate activists and they are crafting a memorial for consideration by the Senate that will go to the Regents about climate issues. There is a signal from the state legislature that they would like UC – including ANR, the Labs and the campuses – to work on climate issues, so there is a request going forth in the new budget to enable the campuses to work together on climate-related matters. The Regents' Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative has a number of different aspects, and they are asking the Senate to consider changing the APM to give more credit to innovation and entrepreneurship during review for merit and promotion. Faculty across all the disciplines should be eligible to engage in this entrepreneurship activity.

CFO Brostrom talked about the regular funding of merits; he also said that the office is proposing three percent range adjustments, with another one percent to address equity gaps. In addition, Mr. Brostrom mentioned reducing the employer contribution to the pension fund. Investments have done well and his plan is to cut back on the amount of employer contribution and use STIP to cover the shortfall. This has ended up in discussion at UCPB because it may open other liabilities in terms of the Regents wanting more in the way of employee contributions. The advantage to campuses is that it gives them a little more money to work with.

The budget that is going to the Regents is about five percent over the current budget. The University is seeking funds to support about 2000 undergraduate students and 500 graduate students; it is looking for backfill on students that were not funded.

The Senate is following up with UC Legal about student tutoring websites. Now that students have gone back to class, Chegg stock has fallen dramatically. The University is going to employ the Digital Millennium Copyright Act to protect instructor materials that are stolen. Separately, transfer education is very time-intensive and is becoming a much larger piece of the portfolio at systemwide. There is an MOU with the Community Colleges and UC has met its commitment to it. However, the Regents feel that there is not enough access for transfer students. In addition, AB 928 requires the CSU and the UC to come up with a common set of courses for transfer. The Senate has asked BOARS, UCOPE, and UCEP to look at ways to make the transfer process easier and clearer for students.

Labor issues continue to percolate. UC made a final proposal to the union and they agreed to come back to the negotiating table. There are ongoing negotiations with UC Student Researchers United, who are seeking union representation of GSRs. UC has agreed to recognize graduate students employed as GSRs, but wants to exclude eligibility of students covered by other sources of funding. Chair Horwitz and Vice Chair Cochran have been resisting the Provost's recommendation to devolve approval of all Master's programs to the campus level. The Provost has proposed a working group to study the issue, and the final charge for that working group is still being developed. It will have four Senate members and four members of the administration.

Committee members had questions and there was much discussion

IX. Announcements from Academic Affairs (part 2)

Pamela Jennings, Exec. Director of Graduate Studies

The presentation on Growing our Own will be presented to the Regents on November 17. This will hopefully tee off advocacy efforts from the Regents and the state related to the importance of graduate education. The Director's office is looking at the initial planning for the RFP for UC Online. Members had questions for Ms. Jennings.

X. 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 proposal is to establish a reciprocal dual degree between UCSD and SNU. Both of these programs already exist and are successful. The program at UCSD is an SSGPDP. The dual master's program is for about 10 students and would extend their educational program for one year to go to SNU and Korean students would come to UC at a largely reduced fee. The program would be conducted in English in both locations. Korean students would have to provide proof of English language proficiency. Reviewers had concerns about the budget and financial imbalance between the Korean and American students and efforts in diversity. The proposers responded adequately and a revised proposal is not necessary.

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

- B. Proposal for a BS/MS 4+1 in Microbiology on the Riverside Campus
– *Lead Reviewer Arvind Rajaraman*
The Lead Reviewer has not heard back from the campus.
- C. Proposal for a Master of Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics on the Berkeley Campus [SSGPDP]
- *Lead Reviewer Bjoern Schwer*
The Lead Reviewer has had extreme difficulty getting reviewers. He has finally secured one internal and three external reviewers. He will discuss the proposal at the next meeting.
- D. Proposal for a PhD in Film and Media Studies on the Irvine Campus
- *Lead Reviewer Partho Ghosh* –
All four reviews back; they were all uniformly enthusiastic about the program. There were two issues that the proposers responded to them. The quality and academic rigor of the program was strong. The reviewers thought the faculty were outstanding. Everything is in place since this is coming from an established program. Placement prospects are good. Diversity was seen as an important part of the proposal.
Action Taken: *The proposal was approved 10-0-1.*

XI. New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 pm.

Minutes prepared by Fredye Harms, CCGA Analyst
Attest: Andrea Kasko, CCGA Chair