

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

April 2, 2014

I. Consent Calendar

1. April 2, 2014 Academic Council Agenda
2. Draft February 26, 2014 Academic Council Minutes
3. Agenda Items for the April 16, 2014 Teleconference of the Assembly of the Academic Senate: Election of 2014-15 Council Vice Chair; Ratification of 2014 Oliver Johnson Award; UCFW report; Announcements by the President and Provost

Action: Council approved the April 2 Council agenda, the February 26 Council minutes, and agenda items for the April 16 meeting of the Assembly of the Academic Senate.

II. Senate Officer's Announcements

- o Bill Jacob, Chair, Academic Council
- o Mary Gilly, Vice Chair, Academic Council

Academic Planning Council: Provost Dorr has invited past and current members of the Academic Planning Council to sort through comments and concerns expressed by reviewers of the proposed policies on Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDPs) and Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST). She has also appointed a working group to formulate a definition of an SSGPDP that includes clear criteria to help reviewing bodies identify when it is appropriate to offer a self-supporting program and to distinguish self-supporting programs from state-supported programs that charge PDST. The revised policies will be released for a full Senate review.

March Board of Regents Meeting: At the Regents' March 19 meeting, Provost Dorr and Berkeley Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Gibor Basri briefed the Regents on the [data](#) produced by UC's 2012 campus climate study. The Regents also approved UC's financial participation in the Thirty-Meter Telescope project and discussed efforts to encourage the state to fund UCRP on the same basis as CalPers. The Senior Vice President for Health Sciences warned the Regents that UC's clinical enterprise could face large deficits by 2017. A request from UC Irvine to approve a new PDST that was originally on the agenda was withdrawn prior to the meeting after it became clear that the proposal had not been reviewed by appropriate Senate bodies on that campus.

CA Open Educational Resources Council: UC Irvine Senate Chair Krapp is one of three UC representatives to the nine-member California Open Educational Resources Council ([COERC](#)), an intersegmental committee that was formed by [ICAS](#) to implement legislation enacted in 2012 (SB 1052 and 1053) directing the higher education segments to identify or develop 50 open access online textbooks and make them available in a common repository for use across the segments. COERC will soon be releasing a survey to faculty and students at the three segments to collect data about their experiences and attitudes related to open textbook resources.

Blue Ribbon Panel Report: The Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) is a special Senate Committee that was charged with evaluating the commissioned assessment of the Online Instruction Pilot Project (OIPP) by the UC Educational Evaluation Center (UCEC) at UC Santa Barbara. UCLA Senate Chair and BRP member Jan Reiff reported that the BRP has completed its final report, which concludes that the UCEC has not provided sufficient information about student performance and learning outcomes for an appropriate evaluation of the OIPP program. Later this month, UCEP will formally receive the BRP report and transmit it to the Council.

Composite Benefit Rates: The Council of Chancellors meets with the president today to discuss several models proposed for composite benefit rates. The chancellors also have been provided with Senate Chair Jacob's analysis of the models and an alternative Senate proposal. Chair Jacob's analysis states that the proposed models will reduce the money available for graduate student support and urges that faculty grants not be charged for benefits that do not accrue to the salary component funded by the grant.

III. UCORP Letter re: Support for Multi Campus Research

- Robert Clare, Chair, UCORP

The University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) is concerned that budget cuts have impacted several systemwide research programs overseen by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies (ORGS), including the UC Discovery Grant, which has been eliminated, and the Multi-campus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) program, whose \$15 million annual budget has been reduced to a \$9 million two-year budget, about \$3 million of which has been set aside for bridge funding. UCORP is seeking Council's support in lobbying UCOP for more systemwide research funding. UCORP Chair Clare noted that the Vice President for Research convened a joint Senate-Administration Portfolio Review Group (PRG) to advise him about the allocation of central research funding, including the portfolio of MRPI-funded programs. The PRG agrees with UCORP that the MRPI budget should be restored.

Council members agreed that centrally-funded research programs are vulnerable to cuts and research should not be the first place administrators look for cuts. It was also noted that the criteria used by the PRG to identify funding priorities are unclear. UC needs a mechanism to ensure that the UCOP budget includes a permanent, ongoing, protected commitment to those programs, as well as a clearer rationale for funding decisions and a more clearly articulated overall policy and vision for systemwide UC research. For example, one might expect the MRPI program to seed new research and projects that no one campus could do alone, rather than fund well-established and well-resourced programs. It was noted that several multi-campus research units were originally funded as presidential initiatives. An initiative to stabilize central research funding could be a signature project for the current president.

Action: Chair Jacob asked UCORP and UCPB to collaborate on a revised proposal for Council's review.

IV. UCAF's Public Records Act/Freedom of Information Act Toolkit

- Cameron Gunderson, Chair, UCAF

University Committee on Academic Freedom Chair Gunderson briefed Council on a "toolkit" of materials assembled by UCAF to help faculty respond to Public Records Act (PRA) and

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. He noted that the toolkit originated at UCLA, but the documents are applicable to faculty on all campuses who face requests for information about their research. UCAF notes that some requests may be malicious or frivolous and that academic freedom can be threatened if faculty fear they risk legal action or financial penalties in conducting research. In view of these concerns, UCLA has a policy that explicitly advises faculty that UCLA will cover most legal costs that may emerge if a PRA request results in litigation.

Action: Council agreed to explore the appropriate dissemination of the toolkit to interested faculty on the campuses. Chair Jacob asked Chair Gunderson and UCAF to explore the extent to which the UCLA policy regarding legal fees exists on other campuses and to recommend a systemwide policy, if necessary.

V. Response from WASC to Concerns about the Role of WASC at UC Irvine

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College Commission President Petrisko has responded to Chair Jacob's [March 5, 2014 memo](#) about the role of WASC at UC Irvine and newly mandated measures in the WASC accreditation process.

President Petrisko notes in her letter that while WASC is mindful of the need to minimize reporting burdens, WASC also has a responsibility to review institutions in accordance with Department of Education regulations and a responsibility to the public to protect educational quality. She notes that WASC has simplified its reporting requirements and is helping to communicate how higher education institutions serve the public good. She says the WASC review criteria are not "one size fits all," and that WASC stands by the core competencies it asks institutions to address in reviews.

Council members noted that the WASC accreditation process is onerous and has unclear value for campuses. It requires enormous staff time and effort to respond to criteria that can be narrowly focused and not relevant to UC campuses. In addition, WASC will sometimes change the terms of a review in the middle of the review.

A Council member suggested that UC consider accreditation by an alternative body, although it was noted that federal grants are often tied to WASC accreditation status; in the end, campuses must find a way to work with WASC. Members agreed that the Senate should continue to discuss the extent to which WASC is adequately serving UC, and how the onerous aspects of the process can be improved or scaled back. It would be useful for Division chairs to meet with accreditation point people on the campuses to hear their detailed perspectives. It was also suggested that a joint letter of concern from the Senate Chair and Provost and/or from multiple university presidents about "shifting the goalposts" could be useful.

Action: Council decided not to respond formally to WASC, but asked UCEP to consider next steps and a larger response to WASC defined outcomes measures.

VI. Executive Session

Three chancellors joined the meeting and discussed ways to resolve questions about composite benefit rates.

VII. Executive Session: Nomination of 2014-15 Academic Council Vice Chair

Minutes were not taken for this portion of the meeting.

Action: Council selected J. Daniel Hare of UC Riverside as its candidate for 2014-15 Vice Chair. The nomination will be forwarded to the Assembly of the Academic Senate for consideration at its April 16 meeting.

VIII. Executive Session: Election of UC Retirement System Advisory Board Members

Minutes were not taken for this portion of the meeting.

Action: Council selected James Chalfant of UC Davis to serve as a Senate representative to the UCRS Advisory Board for a four-year term beginning on July 1, 2014.

IX. Selection of Nominee for Oliver Johnson Award

Council deferred action on selecting a 2014 Oliver Johnson Award recipient to its April 9 teleconference.

X. Amendment of the University Committee on Computing and Communication's Bylaws

The University Committee on Committees has proposed amendments to Bylaw 155 that would reconstitute the charge of the University Committee on Computing and Communications (UCCC) to include issues associated with online courses and academic technology, change its name to the University Committee on Academic Computing and Communications, and add the chairs of UCEP and CCGA as ex-officio members. The proposed amendments follow a recommendation from the Assembly of the Academic Senate to modify UCCC's charge to revitalize and refocus the existing committee. (Council had recommended disbanding the committee and reassigning parts of its charge based on lack of clarity about its purpose.)

Several Council members questioned the continued relevance of UCCC. They noted that the Senate's existing systemwide committees could address the issues within its charge or proposed to be within its charge, and that online education, in particular, should remain with UCEP. It was noted that some campuses have disbanded their Information Technology committees due to budget pressures. Other Council members noted that it would be useful to have a systemwide committee to compile best practices and advise the Senate and Chief Information Officer about academic technology, data governance, and data analysis issues. Members expressed support for constituting a systemwide task force for 2014-15 that could address some of these issues and possibly lead to a revitalized standing committee.

Action: Council agreed to invite the Chief Information Officer to the next meeting to discuss the scope of issues that an Information Technology Task Force or revitalized UCCC might address.

XI. Consultation with Senior Managers

- Aimee Dorr, Provost and Executive Vice President

Campus Climate Survey: The results of the UC Campus Climate Survey were released on March 19. Each campus has designated a local point of contact for the results, and the president has asked each of the 13 UC locations surveyed to identify by the end of the calendar year two or three goals that draw on the results and clear metrics for determining meaningful progress. UCOP will convene representatives from each campus to discuss issues for which UCOP can offer help. The chancellors have agreed to share campus-specific data among themselves to help identify problem areas. Several Council members reported that they have been appointed to local groups that will advise their chancellor about next steps.

Graduate Education Conference: In 2012, a joint Senate-Administration [Task Force](#) and an Academic Council [Task Force](#) released separate reports about the challenges facing graduate education competitiveness at UC. The Senate report made four recommendations, including increasing graduate student stipends and eliminating nonresident supplemental tuition for academic graduate students. In November 2013, Provost Dorr and Chair Jacob made a [joint presentation](#) to the Regents about the reports and announced a UC-wide conference on doctoral education would be held at UC Irvine on April 15. The conference will be co-chaired by Provost Dorr and Vice Chair Gilly and focus on best practices for supporting graduate students and 39 proposals separate proposals submitted by the graduate deans, Graduate Council chairs, CCGA, and the systemwide Association of Graduate Students addressing areas such as competitiveness in recruitment, diversity, and professional development. Conference organizers expect to send a formal systemwide proposal to the Regents later this year.

Online Education: Provost Dorr is reviewing UC's systemwide online education activities to decide which should be based centrally and which should be based on campuses, the extent to which ILTI and UCOE can merge into a single entity, and the wisdom of spending money and effort on the development of a hub to facilitate cross-campus enrollments in online courses when current enrollments in such courses are small. UCOP plans to release another RFP for ILTI courses this fall, and is discussing a plan for distributing unspent money from the Governor's online education budget set-aside to campuses to support local activities.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm

Attest: Bill Jacob, Academic Council Chair

Minutes prepared by Michael LaBriola, Principal Committee Analyst

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes of Teleconference Meeting

April 9, 2014

I. Chair's Announcements

Composite Benefit Rates Advisory Group: The president has asked a joint Senate-Administration Advisory Group to help guide her decision on the composite benefit rates project. Chair Jacob, Vice Chair Gilly, and UCFW Chair Hare are the Senate representatives on the group. Chancellors Blumenthal (UCSC), Khosla (UCSD), and Yang (UCSB); Chief Financial Officer Taylor, and Associate Vice President Arrivas are the other participants. The president has asked for a report by May 2 so that she can discuss a recommendation with the Council of Chancellors on May 7. The group discussed a data gathering proposal prepared by Chair Jacob on a conference call last night. The proposal requests data on different employee groups and funding sources to allow Senate and administration leaders to model alternative scenarios in order to illuminate a fuller range of possibilities and the pros and cons of each.

Assembly Apportionment for 2014-15: The Senate office has completed the annual faculty census and reports that no changes in the apportionment of Assembly seats are required for 2014-15. The counts were distributed to Senate divisions yesterday.

II. Oliver Johnson Award

Minutes were not taken for this portion of the meeting.

Action: Council voted to name Professors Joel Dimsdale (UCSD) and Kathleen Komar (UCLA) recipients of the 2014 Oliver Johnson Award. Their names will be forwarded to the Assembly of the Academic Senate for ratification on April 16.

III. New Business: BOARS-UCOPE Statement on Importance of Writing

Council reviewed a "Statement on the Importance of Writing at the University of California" authored by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools and the University Committee on Preparatory Education. The statement references the upcoming redesign of the SAT, including changes associated with its writing portion, and notes that UCOPE and BOARS will be assessing what role the new Essay section should play in providing guidance on appropriate preparation for UC and in evaluating students applying for admission to UC. Sample items for the new SAT are expected to be released on April 15.

Action: Council voted unanimously to endorse the statement and forward it to the administration.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am

Attest: Bill Jacob, Academic Council Chair

Minutes prepared by Michael LaBriola, Principal Committee Analyst