

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATIONAL POLICY
2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) met by videoconference eight times in Academic Year 2020-2021 to conduct business with respect to its duties as outlined in [Senate Bylaw 170](#) and in the Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units, and Research Units (the “[Compendium](#)”). The major activities of the committee and the issues it addressed this year are outlined briefly, as follows.

RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In March and May 2020, in response to the rapid pivot to remote learning under COVID-19, Academic Council endorsed letters from UCEP providing guidance to divisions around the use of the Pass/No Pass grading option during spring and summer 2020. In [September](#) and [December](#) 2020, Council endorsed new UCEP guidance to divisions on issues to keep in mind when considering whether to extend divisional flexibility for grading options to the fall 2020 and winter, spring, and summer 2021 academic terms. In addition, the committee recommended that divisions should have the flexibility to modify the provisions of Senate Regulation 782, which defines the upper limit on courses a student may take on a Pass/No Pass basis. This recommendation was endorsed by Council at its [December](#) 2020 meeting.

INTERCAMPUS RECOGNITION OF TRANSFERABLE MINORS

The committee was asked by UC Berkeley’s Summer Sessions program to consider if students could receive credit at another UC campus for a minor completed at a different campus. This would apply to any minor offered by one campus that is not available at another campus. UCB’s Summer Minors are developed to enrich students’ areas of study by offering high quality, innovative academic courses, and experiential education opportunities during the summer. Students at other UC campuses are interested in programs like Berkeley’s, but the completed minor does not appear on the transcript at their home UC campus. While recognizing minors would be advantageous for students, based on the feedback from the divisional Committees on Educational Policy/Undergraduate Councils, UCEP found that campuses would prefer to entertain specific proposals on a case by case basis and concluded that there is no interest in establishing a systemwide policy for the intercampus recognition of transferable minors.

ONLINE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Following the systemwide review of the Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force (OUDTF) Report in December, Senate Chair Gauvain asked UCEP to identify principles that might shape future online degree programs for undergraduate students. In April, the committee began deliberating the potential criteria for such programs that will ensure a high standard is set and so departments will know what information should be included in a proposal. The principles or guidelines will be informed by both the recommendations from the OUDTF and the experience with remote instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the committee will begin by defining what constitutes a fully online degree program. There is agreement that development of online undergraduate degree programs should be driven by faculty rather than administrators. Additionally, members agreed upon the importance of disciplinary rigor and the essential need to provide students with support services such as behavioral health care. Members also agreed that UCEP should review and approve proposals for online degree programs for several years, not just for the first of its kind in the system, and the committee will work on adding this requirement to the Compendium and the committee’s bylaw next year. Development of the principles will continue in 2021-2022.

REVISIONS TO SYSTEMWIDE SENATE REGULATION 610

In recent years, UCEP has debated the question of whether or not online courses are included in how residency for undergraduate and graduate students is defined in Senate Regulation (SR) 610. This year, the committee revisited the liberal interpretation of SR 610 adopted by the Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction (UCRJ) with a 3-2 vote in 2011: “residency [is] determined by course approval by the relevant Faculty and Senate governing entities of the University of California, not linked to the physical presence of a student on campus.” The committee concurred with UCRJ’s opinion and with the recommendation that the language of the existing regulation is sufficiently ambiguous as to allow for a more literal interpretation, in which residency is linked to physical presence on campus. In February, UCEP approved revisions to the regulation, which were then endorsed by Council and sent out for systemwide review. Senate reviewers expressed broad support for the proposal, although there was also some concern that it could open the door to fully online degrees and suggest a student could earn UC degree without setting foot on campus. Council endorsed the proposed revisions to SR 610 in May and the revisions were approved by the Academic Assembly in June. In the year ahead, UCEP will attempt to address the loophole in the Senate regulations which could allow students to earn an online degree outside of an approved program.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY VIOLATIONS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Over the past few years, UCEP has considered problems related to academic dishonesty and integrity as well as [infringement on the intellectual property rights](#) of faculty. This includes issues related to contract cheating whereby students pay others to complete their course work and the posting of course materials on third-party social learning websites. In May, the committee met in Executive Session with five representatives of the website Chegg. Members were largely dissatisfied with the discussion with Chegg, pointing out that it and other social learning websites should be doing more to prevent cheating instead of incentivizing it. UCEP agreed to issue an annual reminder to faculty to increase awareness of the infringement on their intellectual property, to inform them about the steps they can take to address it, and to direct them to campus resources. The annual reminder was approved by the committee in June, and the plan is to transmit the reminder to Council each September for dissemination to the campuses. During the June meeting, UCEP was joined by the director of the UC San Diego Academic Integrity Office to learn more about the scope of the problem and current efforts to mitigate academic dishonesty.

SELF-SUPPORTING GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

In March, the committee discussed the 2020-2025 Five-Year Planning Perspectives report, and members expressed concerns about what the expansion of the Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDPs) means for undergraduate programs, especially in terms of the financial and other resources. In April, UCEP was joined by the co-chairs of a joint Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB) and Coordinating Council of Graduate Affairs (CCGA) workgroup on SSGPDPs. There are no accurate estimates of the true costs of SSGPDPs in any given discipline nor of the funds redirected from undergraduate programs, and the workgroup recommended that an analysis of the true costs to implement a full program without any campus resources is needed. The [report of the CCGA/UCPB Workgroup on SSGPDPs](#) was endorsed by Council in June and subsequently transmitted to the Provost.

OTHER ISSUES AND ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

In response to requests for formal comment from the Academic Council, UCEP issued views on the following:

- Simple name change for UC Berkeley’s College of Natural Resources to the Gordon Rausser College of Natural Resources
- Systemwide Senate review of the Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force Report
- Proposed revisions to Universitywide Police Policies and Administrative Procedures

- Simple name change for UC Riverside’s Graduate School of Education to the School of Education
- Systemwide Senate review of the Innovative Learning Technology Initiative Assessment Report and Recommendations for the Future
- Simple name change for UC Santa Cruz’s College 10 to the John R. Lewis College

UCEP touched on a variety of other issues related to the business of the Academic Council, Academic Assembly, the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates, and the work of campus Committees on Educational Policy/Undergraduate Councils.

UCEP REPRESENTATION

UCEP Chair Potter represented the committee at meetings of the Academic Council and the Academic Assembly. Chair Potter also participated on the Provost’s monthly budget briefing teleconferences, the Academic Planning Council, quarterly meetings of the University Committee on Academic Computing and Communications, and bimonthly (every other month) meetings of the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates. UCEP was represented by Chair Potter on the UC Washington Center’s Academic Advisory Council and the University Committee on Planning and Budget’s Task Force on Agriculture and Natural Resources UCANR. Katheryn Russ served as UCEP’s representative on the UC Education Abroad Program Advisory Committee.

COMMITTEE CONSULTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UCEP benefited from consultation and reports from; Todd Greenspan, Director, Academic Planning Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP); Ethan Savage, Analyst, Academic Planning, IRAP; and Ellen Osmundson, ILTI Director, UCOP.

In addition, UCEP consulted the Academic Senate chair and vice-chair, who updated the committee on issues facing the Academic Council and Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

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