**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATIONAL POLICY**

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:
The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) met by videoconference eight times in Academic Year 2021-2022 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.

FULLY ONLINE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS
UCEP continued to consider various potential forms of online undergraduate degree programs (OUDPs) this year, including fully-online OUDPs. The focus shifted from developing principles to addressing a series of key questions which entailed consultation with divisional Educational Policy committees and Undergraduate Councils. The divisions' perspectives on the quality of OUDPs identified the need for specific metrics to help guide campus discussions about design, content, and pedagogy. It will also be important for the Senate and University to establish clear guidelines and policies for the review, approval, and assessment of OUDPs, and new processes and infrastructure to support teaching and learning. This feedback was shared with Academic Council in the spring to inform the Council's deliberations about OUDPs. In addition, the UCI representative provided UCEP with an update on the Paul Merage School of Business's current online offerings in Business Administration to undergraduate students.

In June, the committee transmitted a white paper, "Understanding Online Undergraduate Degree Programs: Definitions, Status, Process, and Questions at the University of California" to Academic Council This document, prepared by Vice Chair Katheryn Russ with input from other committee members, attempts to synthesize the information about OUDPs that UCEP has gathered since 2019. The committee believes this white paper will be a valuable resource to the campuses as they explore the development of online degree programs for undergraduates and Council will determine when it will be transmitted to the divisions.

PROPOSED RESIDENCY AMENDMENT TO SENATE REGULATION 630
The revision to systemwide Senate Regulation 610 in 2020 raised questions about a loophole that allows enough courses to be offered in virtual formats through campus processes for individual course approval that an online undergraduate degree program can emerge without having been approved as an online program. This year, UCEP weighed a number of possible approaches to closing the loophole. In April, the committee met with the Assistant Vice President for Substantive Change at the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) to gain a better understanding of the Commission's definition of distance education.

The information from WSCUC helped the committee formulate options to Academic Council to close the loophole by instituting a threshold for course credits offered by programs in virtual modalities that would trigger program-level approvals processes tailored for online degree programs. In June, UCEP sent Council (at Council's request) draft language to amend the residency requirements in Senate Regulation 630 to require approximately one year of coursework during which a minimum number of course credits are taken in-person on a UC campus. Council endorsed sending the proposed amendment to SR 630 out for systemwide review in Fall 2022.

REVIEW OF THE SYSTEMWIDE NATURAL RESERVE SYSTEM CALIFORNIA ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION FIELD COURE
Senate Bylaw 170.B.3 charges UCEP with approving courses to be offered as systemwide courses, and UCEP is to review these courses every seven years per guidelines approved the Academic Council in 2014. UCEP approved the Natural Reserve System California Ecology and Conservation (NRS CEC) course in 2015 as the first systemwide course under these guidelines, and its 2022 review is the committee's first for a systemwide course. As a first step, UCEP adapted and approved the template for systemwide course and program reviews with the understanding that it will be refined over time. The template was endorsed by Council in December 2021.

NRS CEC course instructors provided a detailed report to the committee on the first seven years of the course as a systemwide offering and two UCEP members were responsible for the review. In April, UCEP submitted a report to Academic Council detailing the many strengths of the NRS CEC course. One serious concern identified through the review was the lack of a robust protocol for dealing with sexual violence and sexual harassment (SVSH) in the field should an event be reported in the future. Council agreed with UCEP's recommendation to support the continued systemwide status of this course and requested the assistance of the Title IX office to clarify and strengthen the SVSH protocols.

UC ONLINE
The committee consulted with the program director of UC Online, formerly known as the Innovative Learning Technology Initiative, three times during this academic year. UCEP was interested in the restructuring of UC Online, which included moving it to the Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity Affairs unit at the Office of the President, and the establishment of a new Advisory Council, that includes the Senate chair and vice chair, a UCEP representative, and campus administrators. The committee will monitor the hiring of a faculty director for UC Online, a recommendation put forward in the Provost's 2020 "Innovative Learning Technology Initiative: Recommendations for Future State" assessment report.

UCEP has maintained an interest in reviewing information about how many students have taken UC Online courses, the characteristics of these students, and enrollment and course completion data. As a result of an April presentation by the program director, the committee had questions and concerns about the analysis and reporting of data on enrollment in and completion of cross-campus courses. In July, UCEP sent a memo to Academic Council outlining a number of recommendations to UC Online and the Advisory Council about standardizing data collection and reporting. The memo was endorsed by Council and transmitted to the Vice President for Graduate and Undergraduate Affairs, Vice Provost for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, the UC Online Program Director, and the convener of the Advisory Council.

CREDIT BY EXAMINATION
The director of A-G and Transfer Policy Analysis & Coordination in the Educational Innovations and Services unit at UCOP asked the committee to consider if UC should expand the current credit by examination opportunities beyond the Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. A growing number of external national and international organizations have contacted UC requesting that their curriculum be approved for college credit and the number of UC students who have participated in these curricular offerings is small but slowly growing. A key benefit of expanding credit by exam would be to give students who completed and performed well on the exams the ability to move to the next level without having to repeat the same course content, which could reduce time to degree or at least give students the opportunity to take higher-level upper division coursework sooner.

UCEP agreed to engage in an exploratory processes with the appropriate UCOP office to determine whether a new policy allowing the expansion of the range of standardized exams accepted for academic credit will be feasible. The goal would be to design a process that is efficient, expeditious, and involves faculty content experts in the particular areas covered by the exams. It will be essential to determine how

the exams will be assessed. In April, UCEP voted in favor of working with the administration to develop a policy regarding the feasibility of expanding opportunities for credit by examination or, alternatively, issuing a statement about why credit by examination should not be expanded beyond the current exams. Only after a policy is established would the committee start to entertain proposals from the exam providers.

OTHER ISSUES AND ADDITIONAL BUSINESS
In response to requests for formal comment from the Academic Council, UCEP issued views on the following:
- UC Berkeley's Pre-proposal for a new College of Computing, Data Science, and Society
- UC San Diego's Proposal to Re-name the General Campus Academic Divisions to Establish Schools of Arts and Humanities, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Social Sciences
- Proposed Presidential Policy on Abusive Conduct and Bullying in the Workplace
- UC San Diego's proposal for an Eighth Undergraduate College

UCEP discussions 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 Lynch represented the committee at meetings of the Academic Council and the Academic Assembly. Chair Lynch also participated on the Provost's monthly budget briefing teleconferences and the Academic Planning Council. UCEP Vice Chair Russ also attended Academic Council and Academic Planning Council discussions related to OUDPs in Fall and Spring. Finally, UCEP was represented by Chair Lynch on the UC Education Abroad Program Advisory and by Vice Chair Russ on the UC Online Advisory Council. This year, there was no UCEP representation on the UC Washington Center's Academic Advisory Council.

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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