

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

Videoconference Minutes

Monday, January 9, 2023

Attending: Melanie Cocco, Chair (UCI), Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair (UCLA), Darlene Francis (UCB), Katie Harris (UCD), Manoj Kaplinghat (UCI), Dorothy Wiley (UCLA), Holley Moyes (UCM), Eric Schwitzgebel (UCR), Stephane Mel (UCSD Alternate), Thuan Le (UCSF), Julie Bianchini (UCSB), David Cuthbert (UCSC), James Weichert (Undergraduate Student Representative, UCB), Sadaf Bandeali (Graduate Student Representative), Todd Greenspan (Director, Academic Planning), Susan Cochran (Chair, Academic Senate), Jim Steintrager (Vice Chair, Academic Senate), Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst, Academic Senate)

I. Consultation with the Academic Senate Office

- *Susan Cochran, Chair, Academic Senate*
- *Jim Steintrager, Vice Chair, Academic Senate*

- The Regents voted to allow UCLA to join the Big 10 but will require UCLA to provide financial support for student athletes at UCB. This is shift in thinking that, while only related to football at the moment, might come up in other situations if a campus does something that might harm another campus. UCEP might think about if this principle will apply if, for example, UCB proposes an online degree program that could harm UCM.
- Katherine Newman, the new systemwide provost, is starting today.
- A report from the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) in response to large capital funding requests from UC and California State University (CSU) systems states that capital requirements will decrease because so much education will be done online. What the LAO fails to understand is that most buildings are used for research and administration rather than instruction.
- Before the winter break, Vice Provost Haynes sent guidance to the executive vice chancellors regarding certification of work by personnel during the strike. The principal investigators (PI) are the starting point for a federal audit and the Senate has alerted PIs that they should not sign work effort reports unless they are confident of their accuracy because signing incorrect reports is fraud.
- UCOP will ask faculty to complete self-attestation forms and Senate leadership has encouraged the administration to think about its goals and how it will define the striking behavior that could lead to a reduction of a faculty member's wages.
- The financial model for supporting graduate students has blurred the line between academic work and labor, and the involvement of the UAW in discussions going forward will fundamentally change the nature of the conversations.

Discussion: The UAW's statements have only referred to the graduate students as "graduate research employees." Campuses continue to work on entering grades.

II. UCB's College of Computing, Data Science, and Society Proposal and UCSD's School of Computing, Information and Data Science Pre-Proposal

- *Geoff Cook (UCSD) and Dottie Wiley (UCLA)*

- ***UCB's proposal for a College of Computing, Data Science, and Society (CDSS)***
- The UCSD representative stated that the rationale for the new school is reasonable but there are a few concerns.

- The proposal is to merge the Department of Statistics, School of Information, and Center for Computational Biology into one school, a change that makes sense structurally.
- UCB's Graduate Council expressed concerns about Electrical Engineering and Data Science being under the two colleges and two deans.
- Faculty in the School of Information objected to the school being folded into this new entity whereas the School of Information's dean is enthusiastic about the merger.
- The proposal indicates that the CDSS will rely heavily on donations but it is not clear if this approach is sustainable.

Discussion: The governance structure is complicated and the proposal raises questions about whether there was consultation with all relevant stakeholders because it seems like the school is a top-down initiative. There seems to have been a lack of consultation with undergraduate students or people focused on teaching and administration of undergraduate education, and UCEP has questions about the impact of the CDSS on resources for undergraduates. It is possible that the new school would be the second or third largest college at UCB because of the sheer number of undergraduate and graduate students it would absorb. Members have doubts about the rationale for the creation of the CDSS and there are already questions about undergraduate students' access to various courses.

It is unclear how funds will be allocated and how the two deans will reach agreements about funding, and UCEP can recommend that there should at least be a memorandum of understanding. Committee members are interested in seeing this school succeed but the proposers should address the details missing from the proposal before it can be approved. The analyst shared the October 2021 memo from UCEP in response to the pre-proposal and it was noted that UCB did not respond to the questions raised during that review. The UCSD representative will draft questions to send to the proposers.

➤ **UCSD's School of Computing, Information and Data Science Pre-Proposal**

- The UCLA representative explained that the two founding groups are being combined and there will be two co-directors and five additional directors of the unit.
- The appointment of dedicated academic leadership in the form of a new dean who will report to the executive vice chancellor will be important for the new school's ability to succeed.
- The proposers assert that the formation of the school will regularize how various bodies in the Academic Senate engage in the review and oversight of academic experiences.
- There are no letters of support from the divisional Senate and there is no information about a vote.

Discussion: The analyst will contact the UCSD Senate office to request the divisional Senate's feedback on the pre-proposal. There are concerns about the creation of boutique schools in response to trends and the consequences of prioritizing resources for new schools.

III. Chair's Updates

Academic Assembly voted to approve Senate Regulation 479 to establish the California General Education Transfer Curriculum. The Committee on Faculty Welfare sent Academic Council a report describing how behavioral health or mental health options and treatment are substandard. Both faculty and students have a difficult time connecting with therapists or mental health providers, so one suggestion is for UC therapists to prioritize UC colleagues. Academic Planning Council discussed the five-year planning perspectives and there are four online programs in the works: UCI's Business Administration proposal; UCSC's Creative Technologies proposal; and proposals from UCM for education and journalism programs. UCB's proposed online degree in Education will be a concern because given

Berkeley's reputation and that tuition will be the same, undergraduate students will question attending another UC when they can take UCB's online program. This is related to Chair Cochran's report about the Regents being concerned about the impact of one campus's decisions on the other campuses.

IV. Consent Calendar

Action: UCEP's December 5, 2022 videoconference minutes were approved.

V. Draft Principles for Online Majors and Minors

- *Manoj Kaplinghat (UCI) and Eric Schwitzgebel (UCR)*

The UCI representative invited members to add their comments to the draft principles for online majors and minors and discussed some of the questions that have been raised. One question is whether a principle should be that online majors and minors are successful for all students or if this should be more narrowly focused on specific types of students. It is not clear if the definition of an online course should include office hours or if the definition is about scheduled instruction.

Discussion: Chair Cocco clarified that there are requirements related to federal financial aid and accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), and office hours for online classes are not part of WSCUC's calculations. It was noted that transcripts for transfer students do not necessarily indicate if a course was online and the chair explained that WSCUC is only concerned about the online courses taken at UC. When transfer students enroll in an online major as juniors, the major could become a de facto online degree. Once UC reaches the point where students are taking more than 50% of their courses online, it will be critical to ensure that all online courses meet the requirements for an online course versus a correspondence course because students are not allowed to get financial aid if they exceed the 50% threshold.

A member suggested that UCEP consult with instructional designers who understand pedagogy. The committee could establish that the courses in an online major have to meet a certain standard of engagement with instructional designers. Members were asked to provide their campus's information about approving online courses. A subcommittee of UCEP might work on the details about minimum standards for online courses. Evaluations of student performance in online courses have to be stringent.

VI. Questions for UCSC about the Creative Technologies Proposal

- *Holley Moyes (UCM) and Julie Bianchini (UCSB)*

This discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

VII. Guidelines for Proposal Reviews

- *Darlene Francis (UCB) and Julie Bianchini (UCSB)*

This discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

VIII. Campus Reports/Member Items

UCM: The campus is considering if there will be a special category for online courses taken in the summer. At UCLA, each department's vice chair checks whether courses will be online and asks for

information about academic integrity. UCSD has an onerous approval process for online summer courses which includes a 27-point review by the Teaching and Learning Commons.

IX. New Business/Executive Session

Chair Cocco shared that IRAP will present data on first year persistence rates, graduation rates, and data from the undergraduate experience survey to UCEP on February 6th. Members would be interested in data on online courses offered during the pandemic and data on transfer students in impacted majors.

Videoconference adjourned at: 1:20 PM

Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams

Attest: Melanie Cocco