UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA   **ACADEMIC SENATE**
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
Videoconference Minutes
Monday, March 6, 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), Geoff Cook (UCSD), Thuan Le (UCSF), Julie Bianchini (UCSB), David Cuthbert (UCSC), James Weichert (Undergraduate Student Representative, UCB), Sadaf Bandeali (Graduate Student Representative, UCD), Todd Greenspan (Executive Advisor, Academic Planning and Policy Development, IRAP), Ethan Savage (Academic Planning and Policy Analyst, IRAP), 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**
   o   *Susan Cochran, Chair, Academic Senate*
   o   *Jim Steintrager, Vice Chair, Academic Senate*

Chair Cochran has been contacted by people concerned about an Inside Higher Education article that claimed UC had banned fully online degrees in light of the approval of Senate Regulations (SR) 610 and 630 which will require that students spend some time on campus. The most recent Academic Council meeting revolved around consultation with senior managers and the research and compliance units at the Office of the President (UCOP), and Council approved the revision of SR 636 on the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR).

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released its analysis of the governor's budget and the 5% increase in UC's core budget consistent with the compact agreement. The LAO indicated that the 5% increase should be linked to specific budget priorities. The LAO recommends that funding should not be provided for new buildings at UCM and UCLA, and that a building at UCR should be funded through a bond issuance. Instead of requiring that UCLA create Transfer Admission Guarantees and accept Associate Degrees for Transfer as called for by the governor, the LAO proposes a systemwide requirement. Senate leadership is attempting to identify a way to satisfy the state while not opening the floodgates for transfer students to enroll in any UC campus.

The Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates met with legislators and aids to the governor in Sacramento last week and there is significant pressure on UC to provide a transfer guarantee for admissions. Senate leadership is working with UCOP's State Government Relations and the Graduate, Undergraduate, and Equity Affairs unit on language for a guarantee for California residents. Lawmakers are pushing back against utilizing referral campuses and want any student who is eligible to be admitted to the campus of their choice. However, UC does not have the physical space to do this.

Vice Chair Steintrager provided an overview of Senate activities related to the climate crisis, including Fossil Free UC's effort to make the campuses, including the medical centers, fossil free. There is state funding to study what this would involve so the Senate is in the planning stage. The systemwide Senate is trying to ensure that every campus has some form of Senate representation on this and other groups studying how the decarbonization effort will be implemented. The Global Climate Leadership Council (GCLC) has broader goals including coordinating UC research on climate change. The current focus of the GCLC is on ways to implement decarbonization on the campuses and there are "sprint groups" working on different aspects of the effort including communications. Chair Cochran summarized the latest

information about the fallout from the graduate student workers' strike, noting that the new provost plans to create a systemwide workgroup on graduate education and campuses are also creating their own workgroups to deal with this issue locally.

II.   Chair's Updates

Chair Cocco reminded members to book their travel for the committee's April 3rd meeting in Oakland. The chair has been contacted by the UCSC's divisional Senate chair who is concerned that the campus experience requirement in the recently approved SR 630 will prevent UCSC from offering the online Creative Technologies major. Chair Cocco sent the UCSC proposers a memo with UCEP's questions about the Creative Technologies major with a request that the campus send UCEP a revised proposal by the end of April. UCEP will discuss the proposal in May and June, and if the committee is amenable, the members will decide whether to approve it. Chair Cocco would recommend provisional approval with a three-year review because it will be important for UCEP to regularly review online majors going forward. The ELWR Task Force proposed establishing a second committee to supervise the ELWR and UCEP was concerned that this would undermine the Senate's authority especially since the new committee might include non-Senate faculty like Unit 18 lecturers. Academic Council approved an amended proposal which makes the new committee a subcommittee of UCOPE.

III.   Consent Calendar

Action: UCEP approved a memo to Council indicating that there are no objections to the amendments proposed by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools to the Senate regulations governing undergraduate admission.
Action: UCEP's February 6, 2023 videoconference minutes were approved.

IV.   UCSD's School of Computing, Information and Data Science Pre-Proposal
  o   *Dottie Wiley (UCLA) and Geoff Cook (UCSD)*

The UCLA representative explained that the new School of Computing, Information and Data Science (SCIDS) will be comprised of the Halicioğlu Data Science Institute (HDSI) and the San Diego Super-computer Center (SDSC). The HDSI has been involved primarily with academic activities whereas the SDSC is focused on research, and the individuals in the two units collaborate with one another and other units on campus. The proposers assert that they have as many relationships with people in Arts and Humanities as they do in Engineering, but this is not clearly supported in the pre-proposal. The response from the UCSD divisional Senate suggests that the centrality of SCIDS to many academic entities is questionable.

The campus does not explain how forming the new school with the proposed administrative overhead will directly improve outcomes for students. The proposers state that one way SCIDS will manage faculty recruitment is by offering joint appointments in different units although this can actually make it more difficult to retain faculty members. There is no information about how SCIDS will create general education science courses or potential risks to other departments. The pre-proposal mentions boot camps but does not provide information about how unprepared students transferring from community colleges will be supported.

Discussion: HDSI fought hard to offer the Data Science major but the SDSC does not have any students, so it is unclear how merging the two entities will benefit anyone educationally. The idea might be that a

school will have more standing on campus and make it easier to obtain resources and funding, however it will increase the complexity of the organizational structure. Combining the HDSI and SDCS might not harm the students in the new school, but it may impact other students on campus. The proposers should be asked to elaborate on how creating SCIDS will benefit students and education.

How many students from diverse backgrounds graduate from the program should be indicated. Formal joint appointments may look beneficial for the faculty member on paper but in reality they can be problematic and faculty eventually end up moving to one department. There is a question about the benefits of being a school rather than a department and it could be that schools can get a greater share of resources, especially support for research. UCEP should encourage the Committee on Planning and Budget to request specific information about the budget. Chair Cocco explained that endorsing the pre-proposal means UCEP is ready to accept a full proposal and not endorsing it means that the committee thinks the school should be established as written.

Action: Ten members voted to endorse the pre-proposal and one member voted against it because of general concerns related to how campuses are expanding. Chair Cocco will draft the memo to UCSD outlining the various issues that should be addressed in the full proposal.

V.   Guidelines for Proposal Reviews
  o *Darlene Francis (UCB) and Julie Bianchini (UCSB)*

The guidelines are being prepared to help UCEP evaluate proposals consistently and to make sure the committee has not overlooked anything. Once finalized, the guidelines will be transmitted to Council and posted on UCEP's website so the specific review criteria will be available to proposers. Eventually the Compendium will be updated and the guidelines may be incorporated into that document. The representatives have addressed the members' suggestions including adding information from the Compendium and regarding submitting materials. There is a new question about consultation with students and proposers are also asked to provide detailed information about online course offerings.

Discussion: A member suggested asking if the proposed school will negatively impact existing schools on the campus and to provide evidence of adequate consultation. When UCEP receives an updated proposal for UCSC's Creative Technologies major, it will help the committee strengthen the section on online courses. It was also suggested that proposers should be asked about any potential pitfalls to the new program or school, and how they would rectify issues that arise.

VI.   Draft Principles for Online Majors and Minors
  o *Manoj Kaplinghat (UCI) and Eric Schwitzgebel (UCR)*

Chair Cocco's plan is to finalize the principles for online majors and minors during the committee's April meeting, send them to Council in May, and discuss any feedback from Council in June. UCEP's criteria for online majors and minors will probably be added to the Compendium when it is updated. Members were invited to provide general feedback about the principles. The representatives would like clarity about the criteria for an online major and how they map to Federal student aid, WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), and individual campus requirements. There is a concern that the definition of online courses UCEP comes up will be out of sync with these requirements. It is UC's responsibility to track how many online classes students are taking and to notify WSCUC. The Commission defines online courses as any course where 50% or more of the instruction utilizes some kind of technology, which is vague.

Discussion: UCM and UCI are trying to put restrictions in place so that students do not exceed the 50% threshold of online courses. At UCM, students will receive a warning when 25% of their courses are online and when they get to 30% students must petition to take an online course. Chair Cocco clarified that summer course offerings are included in WSCUC's calculations. Two representatives from UCEP will work with members of the Coordinating Council on Graduate Affairs to create standard definitions related to online instruction.

VII.   Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Using Remote Instruction

Chair Cocco shared that the co-chairs of the Systemwide Advisory Workgroup on Students with Disabilities will join UCEP during the March 20th videoconference. The Senate has become aware that disability services offices are starting to demand that faculty record their lectures and the systemwide Committee on Academic Freedom has made it clear that this should not be a requirement. There are intellectual property, privacy, and confidentiality issues. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) states that an institution must provide recording or closed caption devices but not a recording. Recording classes could potentially prevent students from speaking freely.

The chair is concerned that the disability centers are viewing remote instruction as an opportunity to cut costs, especially with regard to giving exams. Last fall, UCI's disability center could not provide a proctored room for the chair's final exam and suggested delaying the exam by a week or giving the exam remotely. The spirit of the ADA calls for creating situations where disabled students are included and can interact with other students and the faculty. Chair Cocco believes it is antithetical to the ADA to not make campuses accessible to disabled students and instead have them watch videos and participate remotely.

Discussion: A member remarked that there are students with disabilities for whom coming to campus is arduous and who do better if they do not have to deal with the campus environment, so giving students options is important. Some professors are struggling with students' demanding that classes are recorded and immediately posted, allowing students to not come to class. One worry is that students will claim to be disabled and get recordings of the classes to avoid going to campus. Students also want to take exams remotely rather than in a proctored setting at the disability center possibly because they want access to the Internet in order to get help.

VIII.   Updates on Other Committees/Campus Reports/Member Items

Academic Council Special Committee on Transfer Issues (ASCOTI): The UCD representative reported that this committee is attempting to respond to the legislature's demand for guaranteed admission to all transfer students. ASCOTI is also evaluating existing Transfer Pathways and may potentially create new ones.

UC Washington D.C. Center's (UCDC) Academic Advisory Committee (ACC): The UCM representative participated in the ACC's first meeting of this academic year on February 13th. The Center's new director provided an overview of how many students are participating and innovations that are underway. In the past, the internships were unpaid, but students are now able to apply for a $1k stipend. In addition to internships for students studying political science, there are opportunities for internships at the Smithsonian Museum, National Science Foundation, and National Institutes of Health. UCDC offers over 2k internships and students can get fellowships through UCOP or use their financial aid to participate in

the program. The representative was enthusiastic about the Center and explained that UC has a building in D.C. with dorms for participating students. In addition, UC faculty can teach courses at UCDC and stay in the dorms. The UCDC representatives on each campus are available to come to a class to let students know about the Center and the opportunities available. Chair Cocco mentioned that UCDC is supposed to be reviewed by UCEP eventually.

UC Education Abroad Program (UCEAP) Advisory Committee: The Advisory Committee met last week and received a report on UCEAP's budget and finances. The financial situation during the pandemic was dire due to low enrollments but the program is starting to recover. Enrollment dropped from 10k to 4k during the pandemic and it is now at 6k. There is more funding to reach out to new programs and create more opportunities for students.

Academic Planning Council's Work Group on the Future of Undergraduate Education: The group is thinking big and reimagining undergraduate education. The main principles of the group's report are success, equity, and inclusion. A major theme is the value of experiential education and the work group considered why students want to get their undergraduate education at UC. The report emphasizes the students' ability to succeed in their major of choice and being given the necessary resources. Attention is also given to the need to support and protect faculty. The draft report has been presented to the Academic Planning Council and Analyst Savage indicated that the workgroup focused on action items.

IX.   New Business/Executive Session

There was no New Business or Executive Session.

Videoconference adjourned at: 1:45 PM
Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams
Attest: Melanie Cocco