

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING OF ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

April 13, 2022

MINUTES OF MEETING

I. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Pursuant to the call, the Assembly of the Academic Senate met on Wednesday, April 13, 2022. Academic Senate Chair Robert Horwitz presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Senate Director Hilary Baxter called the roll of Assembly members and confirmed a quorum. Attendance is listed in Appendix A of these minutes.

II. MINUTES

ACTION: The Assembly approved the minutes of February 9, 2022.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SENATE LEADERSHIP

- **Robert Horwitz, Chair**
- **Susan Cochran, Vice Chair**

UC Health Affiliations: A Presidential Policy on Affiliations with Certain Healthcare Organizations is circulating for systemwide review. The policy requires UC Health affiliates to allow UC providers working in their facilities to counsel patients about all healthcare options, prescribe any necessary medications, and refer patients to any facility for care not provided by the affiliate. Senate leadership have asked the Office of Ethics, Compliance and Audit Services to develop a training video for new medical staff explaining how to file whistleblower complaints.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship: UCOP administrators announced at the Regents Special Committee on Innovation Transfer and Entrepreneurship agreements with the chancellors to maintain individual campus patent tracking systems and with UCOP to maintain a systemwide patent data warehouse, best practices inventory, and faculty legal support services.

Teaching Modality Recommendations: The Academic Council issued recommendations to Senate divisions about campus policies that mandate the recording of classes to accommodate disabled students and student demands for mandatory recording of classes post-pandemic. The Council also issued a letter responding to student calls for universal and permanent dual modality instruction post pandemic.

Systemwide Reviews: Following the systemwide reviews of BOARS's proposed revision to Senate Regulation 424.A.3 creating an A-G ethnic studies requirement for freshman admission to UC and UCAF's recommendations concerning the freedom of campus academic departments to issue or endorse statements on political issues in the name of the department, Council asked BOARS and UCAF for additional consideration of those respective proposals.

III. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**A. Academic Council****1. Proposed Memorial to the UC Regents**

The Assembly continued its February discussion of a proposed Memorial to the UC Regents. The Academic Council approved the Memorial in December and recommend to the Assembly that it initiate a systemwide faculty ballot on the Memorial in accordance with Senate Bylaw 90. The Memorial reads: “The University of California Academic Senate petitions the Regents for investments in UC’s infrastructure that will reduce on-campus fossil fuel combustion to 5% of current levels by 2030.”

Bylaw 90 specifies that the Assembly may initiate Memorials to the Regents on matters of universitywide concern and that Memorials approved by the Assembly shall, within sixty calendar days of approval, be submitted by the Secretary/Parliamentarian of the Senate to an electronic ballot of all voting members of the Senate. If a majority of the voting members approve the proposed Memorial, the Assembly will forward it to the President for transmission to the Regents, as provided for in Regents Bylaw 40.1.

Statements for and against the Memorial, and rebuttals to those statements, were submitted to the Assembly prior to the meeting. Chair Horwitz asked UCSD Professor Eric Halgren to present the “pro” arguments and UCSB Senate Chair Susannah Scott to present the “con” arguments.

Professor Halgren noted the University’s inadequate response to a climate crisis that requires immediate reductions in emissions. UC emissions have barely changed since 2013 and are increasing for some campuses. The University has a responsibility to lead society’s response to the climate crisis, but its Carbon Neutrality Initiative depends on purchased carbon offsets and waste-generated methane, strategies that allow UC to avoid real reductions. The Memorial focuses the University on going beyond carbon offsets to real reductions and positions it as a leader in implementing real solutions.

Professor Scott noted that the pro argument suggests that the University has done nothing to reduce emissions, but UC reduced Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 25% over the pre-pandemic decade, even as the University grew. UC should continue to address the climate crisis in a thoughtful and pragmatic way. It would not be feasible to reduce emissions to 5% of current levels by 2030, given that such a reduction cannot be achieved without immediately replacing all of UC’s natural gas co-generation plants at an estimated cost of \$5 billion, an investment that would consume all infrastructure resources available to the University over the next several years and prevent campuses from addressing other critical deferred maintenance and capital investment needs. Campuses would be better served by an achievable goal and a plan that allows each to prioritize local needs in working toward the goal of net zero emissions.

Individual Assembly members cautioned against asking the Regents to undertake a high risk effort to meet an unachievable goal, and expressed concern about the opportunity cost of seeking a 95% reduction when campuses have many pressing infrastructure needs. They warned that such concerns may lead the Memorial to fail a UC-wide faculty vote, and also noted that the vote should be informed by campus-based research about what it will take to replace co-gen plants.

Other members noted that the Memorial signals the urgency of the climate crisis to the Regents and defines an aspirational “stretch goal” that will stimulate movement toward emissions reduction. The Senate should communicate the importance of this goal and not let perfection be the enemy of the good. Members also noted that the State’s budget surplus positions the University to request additional one-time fund for electrification. Members noted that it would be hypocritical for UC to speak out on the climate crisis but decline to reduce emissions **itself** because it is too

expensive, and without a formal commitment to a specific goal, campuses will continue to invest in fossil fuel infrastructure. Members emphasized that UC should look beyond the short-term costs of change and consider the long-term costs of inaction.

Assembly members asked colleagues with concerns about the 95% goal to suggest a more realistic and practical target. It was suggested that a 60% reduction would be more achievable by 2030, and that adding five years to the 95% goal would be more pragmatic.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to amend the proposed Memorial to read as follows: “The University of California Academic Senate petitions the Regents for investments in UC’s infrastructure that will reduce on-campus fossil fuel combustion by 60% of current levels by 2030 and by 95% of current levels by 2035.”

A friendly amendment was proposed and accepted to add “at least” to the text before “60%.” Assembly members noted that the climate crisis is urgent and the Senate has a narrow window of opportunity to get the attention of the Regents and the State. Individual members questioned the rationale for the new goal of 60%. Others expressed support for what they characterized as a similarly ambitious but more achievable goal. It was noted that the pro and con arguments will be revised for the Memorial voting package that is sent to the Senate divisions.

ACTION: The motion to amend passed 49-1.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to close debate.

ACTION: The motion passed 40-6.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to forward to the divisions for a Senate faculty vote the following Memorial: “The University of California Academic Senate petitions the Regents for investments in UC’s infrastructure that will reduce on-campus fossil fuel combustion by at least 60% of current levels by 2030 and by 95% of current levels by 2035.”

ACTION: The motion passed 46-1

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SENIOR UNIVERSITY LEADERS

- **Michael Drake, President**
- **Michael T. Brown, Provost and Executive Vice President**
- **Nathan Brostrom, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer**

Campus Safety: As part of the new UC Community Safety Plan, campuses were asked to submit individual proposals for a tiered response model that will match a call for service to the appropriate type of response and responder. UCOP is organizing small groups to discuss best practices from the submitted plans.

Pandemic: The University is monitoring the progress of new COVID-19 variants, but there are positive signs. One is that the hospitalization rate of patients with a primary diagnosis of COVID at UC facilities has declined to their lowest level in two years.

Credit Monitoring: The University has extended free credit monitoring and identity theft protection services offered through Experian for an additional two years for all employees.

GSR Unionization: UC had productive and respectful contract negotiations with the UAW, the union representing graduate student researchers. The parties agreed that the union will include students who are UC employees paid through university research funds and grants and who provide a “service” to the University.

Budget: The 2022-23 state budget funds a 5% base budget increase, 6,230 new enrollments, and the buy-down of nonresident enrollment at three campuses. It also includes one-time funding for capital projects related to energy efficiency, seismic upgrades, and deferred maintenance. UC is working with the state to identify additional funding opportunities within the \$17 billion budget surplus for capital priorities, and to encourage funding of past unfunded enrollments. The Governor will also announce a budget compact with UC that provides 5% annual base budget increases for five years. In exchange, UC will work on shared goals around graduation rates, equity gaps, and affordability. President Drake said the work of the faculty as researchers and teachers directly impacts public perceptions of the University and in turn the public’s willingness to fund the University.

COVID Impacts: The Working Group on Mitigating COVID-19 Impacts on Faculty has submitted its final report to Provost Brown. The report asks campuses to incorporate Achievement Relative to Opportunity principles in the merit and promotion process to recognize research challenges faculty experienced during the pandemic.

Q and A:

- How can the University manage student growth thoughtfully and sustainably so it does not hurt academic quality? Would UC consider building a new campus to help absorb growth?

President Drake noted that demand for a UC education is increasing, and the University is challenged to support the priorities of affordability, access, and excellence simultaneously. UC’s plan to add 20,000 students over the next decade also acknowledges the need to add faculty, staff, and infrastructure to support them. CFO Brostrom added that the University and state do not have the resources to build a new campus; however, UC is looking at partnerships with other colleges and universities as a more viable source of space.

- How should the University approach in-person, hybrid, and online modalities in its undergraduate and graduate programs?

President Drake said this is a question for faculty to ask themselves and their colleagues, but that he believes that the future of education will include a mix of modalities and that technology can create additional educational opportunities and add capacity without changing the fundamental nature of a UC education. He suggested that ten percent online is achievable in the near future.

- Carbon neutrality is not a long-term solution to climate change. How can the University move beyond its carbon neutrality goals to a carbon free future?

The University plans to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025 on its way to achieving a fossil fuel free future a decade later. Provost Brown added that the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes \$8 billion to support clean energy hubs across the country, including research and development at universities like UC.

V. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES
A. Academic Council (CONTINUED)

1. Nomination and Election of the Vice Chair of the 2022-23 Assembly

Chair Horwitz introduced James Steintrager, UC Irvine Professor of English, Comparative Literature, and European Languages and Studies, and the Academic Council's nominee for 2022-23 Assembly vice chair and 2023-24 chair of the Academic Council. At Chair Horwitz's invitation, Professor Steintrager made a statement regarding his background, qualifications, and priorities, and then briefly left the meeting. Chair Horwitz asked for any additional nominations from the floor, and hearing none, asked for any objections to Professor Steintrager's nomination. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve his election. Hearing the motion and a second, Assembly voted to elect James Steintrager as 2022-2023 Assembly vice chair and 2020-2021 vice chair of the Academic Council.

ACTION: The Assembly voted to elect James Steintrager vice chair of the 2022-23 Assembly.

2. Ratification of the 2022 Oliver Johnson Award

Chair Horwitz stated that the Oliver Johnson Award for Distinguished Senate Service is presented every other year to a Senate member or members in recognition of lifetime service to the Academic Senate, outstanding and creative contributions to faculty governance, and exceptional abilities in working with different University constituents. The award is governed by procedures adopted by the Academic Council, in which each Senate division is asked to nominate a candidate and the University Committee on Committees selects two names to forward to Council. Council then selects an awardee or awardees from the two nominations it receives, and asks the Assembly to ratify the choice. This year, Council voted to honor UC Riverside Professor Emeritus of Entomology Dan Hare.

ACTION: The Assembly ratified the nomination of Professor Hare as the 2022 recipient of the Oliver Johnson Award.

VI. SPECIAL ORDERS

A. Consent Calendar [NONE]

VII. NEW BUSINESS [None]

VIII. SPECIAL ORDERS [None]

IX. UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY WELFARE REPORT [None]

X. REPORTS ON SPECIAL COMMITTEES [None]

XI. PETITIONS OF STUDENTS [None]

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS [None]

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm

Minutes Prepared by: Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director, Academic Senate

Attest: Robert Horwitz, Academic Senate Chair

Attachments: Appendix A – Assembly Attendance Record, Meeting of April 13, 2022