

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING OF ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

April 14, 2021

MINUTES OF MEETING

I. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Pursuant to the call, the Assembly of the Academic Senate met on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Academic Senate Chair Mary Gauvain 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 10, 2021.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SENATE LEADERSHIP

- **Mary Gauvain, Chair**
- **Robert Horwitz, Vice Chair**

March Regents Meeting: The Regents meeting featured a data-driven presentation about the economic impact of the University on the state's economy and workforce, and the broader social impacts and public value of a UC degree.

Instruction Survey: In early May, the systemwide Senate will circulate a survey to all UC faculty and instructors-of-record about their experiences with remote teaching during the past year. The survey will build on a similar survey of UC instructors last year.

Fall re-openings: The Academic Council is identifying issues related to fall 2021 campus re-openings for which systemwide guidance may be useful. Broad areas of concern relate to process, instruction, research, and operations. First, and above all, meaningful faculty, staff, and student involvement is needed at every stage of planning and decision-making. Second, there is a need to clarify and narrow the possible modes of instruction used on campuses, including various "hybrid" forms, given the faculty effort required to adapt to different modes. Third, some campuses are subjecting research spaces to identical opening protocols as classrooms; however, there have been no COVID cases in those spaces, and many researchers want to open them on a faster track. Finally, there should be clear campus and systemwide policies around safety requirements and enforcement to minimize the role of faculty in enforcing masking and social distancing requirements, managing related classroom disruptions, or dispensing discipline.

Healthcare Affiliations: The Council is discussing UC Health's desire to extend its affiliations with religiously-based external healthcare providers who do not provide comprehensive access to care, withhold certain services from women and LGBTQ patients, and engage in other discriminatory practices.

Academic Integrity: The University continues to discuss faculty concerns about Chegg, Course Hero, and other paid websites sometimes used by students to cheat on on-line exams and distribute

copyrighted course materials. Some faculty are calling for a systemwide legal response as part of a strategy to end the practices of these websites.

Data Breach: The University is offering free credit monitoring for one year to all UC employees following a data breach of the University's file transfer service company. The breach involves the theft of large amounts of personnel data of employees, students, and retirees.

Zoom and Academic Freedom: Recently, Zoom announced a new policy that applies to higher education users and protects academic freedom by leaving content moderation to universities. The policy follows a February 4 letter from UCAF and the Academic Council which noted that Zoom's terms of service may lead to instances of censorship that violate the University's academic freedom principles and responsibilities.

- Assembly members asked if the University planned to issue a vaccine mandate as part of its guidance on campus re-openings, and if it planned to require faculty who teach remotely in the fall to maintain a physical presence in the campus community.
- Members noted that the faculty's transition to remote instruction involved additional costs and effort. This included taking on work normally handled by staff such as transcribing and correcting closed captioning for recorded lectures. The shift of effort to remote instruction also reduced research productivity. There was concern that some campuses have approved work-from-home schedules for research staff in fall 2021, which could further impair research. The University should provide adequate resources to support remote or hybrid teaching, and understand that the physical presence of faculty, staff, and students is vital for building and maintaining the University community. A member suggested a systemwide research replacement program for faculty and graduate students.
- Chair Gauvain noted that the University is unable to mandate vaccines until the FDA removes them from the Emergency Use Authorization list; a step expected before fall for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. She said the University is also discussing issues of privacy around vaccination, as well as the concept of faculty residency in the context of remote instruction. Chair Gauvain expressed concern that faculty research is viewed by some as an avocation or hobby rather than a critical contribution to the University and the state, and she noted that Senate leadership has proposed extra sabbatical credit for all faculty to recognize their efforts during the pandemic.

IV. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Council

1. Revision to Statewide Eligibility Index

BOARS Chair Comeaux noted that in January 2021, BOARS approved a new model and minimum thresholds for the Statewide Eligibility Index, which currently identifies the top 9% of California high school graduates eligible for UC based on an index involving both high school GPA and standardized test scores. Changes to the index are needed to conform with the UC Regents decision in May of 2020 to phase out standardized testing in admission decisions at UC. BOARS considered several models, and decided on one that uses HSGPA and the number of A-G courses completed in 10th and 11th grades and expected in 12th grade. The model is best aligned with UC values and is expected to identify competitive students. The change to the index does not affect the Eligibility

in the Local Context pathway, which extends eligibility to the top 9% of high school graduates in each high school based on GPA. Assembly action is required per Senate Regulation 466.

- Council members observed that applications to many UC campuses grew substantially this year, which lowered admission rates. They asked whether and to what extent UC's recent elimination of its standardized testing requirement influenced the rise in applications. Chair Comeaux noted that no data exist yet, but BOARS will be studying campus application, admission, and enrollment results in the coming years to understand how changes to standardized testing policy are affecting access and diversity.

ACTION: A motion to approve the new index was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

2. Nomination and Election of the Vice Chair of the 2021-22 Assembly

Chair Gauvain introduced Susan Cochran, UC Los Angeles Professor of Epidemiology, who is the Academic Council's nominee for 2021-22 Assembly vice chair and 2022-23 chair. At Chair Gauvain's invitation, Professor Cochran made a statement regarding her background, qualifications, and priorities, and then briefly left the videoconference meeting. Chair Gauvain asked for any additional nominations from the floor, and hearing none, asked for any objections to Professor Cochran's nomination. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve her election. Hearing the motion and a second, Assembly voted on the motion to elect Susan Cochran as 2021-2022 Assembly vice chair.

ACTION: The Assembly voted unanimously to elect Susan Cochran vice chair of the 2021-22 Assembly.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

- **Michael Drake, President**
- **Michael T. Brown, Provost and Executive Vice President**

Data Breach: President Drake noted that the University is doing everything it can to investigate the recent breach of personal UC employee data, implement additional security measures, and provide members of the UC community with the information they need to protect themselves, including free credit monitoring and identity theft protection through Experian.

COVID: President Drake said he is concerned about increased rates of COVID in other parts of the country and a small uptick in hospitalizations, but he is generally hopeful given the low rates of positivity in California and on UC campuses. UC plans to re-open campuses as much as possible in fall 2021, and has issued guidelines around spring commencement that permit outdoor gatherings with appropriate precautions. COVID is still a dynamic situation that complicates planning, but UCOP is developing draft guidelines that will require COVID and flu vaccines for all faculty, students, and staff, and address COVID testing, masking, and social distancing expectations. It will be easier to dial back from in-person instruction than to ramp-up to it in the fall. Planning will be a continuing conversation with the Senate and others.

Campus Safety: UCOP hosted the second of two symposia on campus safety, policing, and social justice issues on March 24. The goal is to improve safety and the feeling of respect and support felt by all campus community members. The University will use input from the symposia to develop best practices to share more broadly before the summer. President Drake underscored how challenging the issues are to the University, the state, and the nation. Broad topic areas include

realignment and reinvestment of public safety resources; data collection; oversight, accountability, and reconciliation; and culture and community engagement.

Budget: Governor Newsom's May budget revision will fully restore last year's \$300 million cut to the University. UC is also revising its budget request to include funding to support deferred maintenance projects, repatriation of Native American artifacts and remains, tele-mental health, and faculty who want to convert courses to an online format. UC will receive \$684 million from the recent federal COVID relief package, half of which must be used for emergency grants for students and half for institutional purposes.

Standardized Testing: The President has asked the Senate to follow-up on a recommendation from the Feasibility Study Working Group to explore the use of a modified Smarter Balanced assessment as a possible tool for use in UC undergraduate admissions that would replace the SAT by 2025.

- Assembly members noted that it will be difficult to provide instruction to students unable to be physically present on campus in the fall, particularly international students who cannot travel or secure a visa. They also expressed concern about the potential for staff remote work arrangements to impair faculty research; emphasized that implementing new or multiple modes of instruction requires significant faculty time and effort; and asked administrators to clarify campus plans for classroom and laboratory capacity in the context of the state's intention to remove all COVID tiers by fall. In addition, faculty asked if the federal infrastructure bill would address deferred maintenance projects, and how UC's suspension of standardized testing influenced application numbers and admission rates this year. Members also expressed their support for the Hispanic Serving Institutions Doctoral Diversity Initiative, and other systemwide diversity initiatives.
- President Drake said UC will require vaccinations of all students, faculty, and staff in the fall, and will accept vaccines administered in other countries. He said the remote work experience has been successful and allowed UC to identify some archaic practices. He expects the nature of work to change permanently following the pandemic, but acknowledged that some work will require the on-campus presence of staff. UCOP is evaluating the infrastructure bill and its funding use requirements and wants to direct some one-time monies to shovel-ready infrastructure projects that are energy efficient, address seismic and climate change concerns, and have long-term benefits.
- Provost Brown reported that the University is encouraging policy changes to federal immigration law that will ease the visa path for international students. The Provost is also assembling a workgroup to discuss the long-term impacts of COVID on faculty advancement and morale, and is working with campus EVCs to explore the specific needs and concerns of Health Sciences faculty. He said UC is applying for a \$15 million Mellon Foundation grant related to graduate student diversity, and that UC needs to do better at reaching into its own campuses to meet its graduate diversity goals. The Provost said he believes the new standardized testing policy had an inviting effect on students who would not have otherwise applied to the University, but the policy has also introduced more uncertainty around yield (the rates at which accepted applicants enroll). He said that UC campuses must follow both state COVID guidelines and county guidelines, which can be more restrictive than state guidelines.

- VI. UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY WELFARE REPORT [None]**
- VII. NEW BUSINESS [None]**
- VIII. SPECIAL ORDERS [None]**
- IX. REPORTS ON SPECIAL COMMITTEES [None]**
- X. PETITIONS OF STUDENTS [None]**
- XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS [None]**

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm

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

Attest: Mary Gauvain, Academic Senate Chair

Attachments: Appendix A – Assembly Attendance Record, Meeting of April 14, 2021

Appendix A – 2020-2021 Assembly Attendance Record, Meeting of April 14, 2021

President of the University:

Michael Drake

Academic Council Members:

Mary Gauvain, Chair.

Robert Horwitz, Vice Chair.

Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, Chair, UCB

Richard Tucker, Chair, UCD

Jeffrey Barrett, Chair, UCI

Shane White, UCLA Chair

Robin DeLugan, Chair, UCM

Jason Stajich, Chair, UCR

Steven Constable, Chair, UCSD

Sharmila Majumdar, Chair, UCSF (absent)

Susannah Scott, Chair, UCSB

David Brundage, Chair, UCSC

Eddie Comeaux, Chair, BOARS

Amr El Abbadi, CCGA Chair

F. Javier Arsuaga, Chair, UCAADE

Susan Tapert, Chair, UCAP

Daniel Potter, Chair, UCEP (absent)

Shelley Halpain, Chair, UCFW

Richard Desjardins, Chair, UCORP

Sean Malloy, Chair, UCPB

Berkeley (5)

Suzanne Fleiszig

Colleen Lye

Ron Cohen (alt for Adair Morse)

Nathan Sayre

David Wagner

Davis (6)

Joe Chen

Hans-Georg Mueller

Joel Hass

Robert Powell

TBD (2) (absent)

Irvine (4)

Elliott Currie

Andrej Luptak

Nancy McLoughlin

Naomi Morrisette

Los Angeles (7)

Hiram Beltran-Sanchez

Nicholas Brecha

Jessica Cattelino

Mansoureh Eghbali

Ann Karagozian (absent)

William Marotti

Peter Tontonoz

Merced (1)

Jessica Trounstine

Riverside (2)

Peter Chung

Isgouhi Kaloshian

San Diego (5)

Mariana Cherner

Seana Coulson

Stephanie Mel

Daniel Widener (absent)

Dean Tullsen

San Francisco (5)

Bo Huang

Jae-Woo Lee

Dyche Mullins

Marek Brzezinski

Linda Centore (absent)

Santa Barbara (3)

Bassam Bamieh

Isabel Bayrakdarian (absent)

Yuedong Wang

Santa Cruz (2)

Patricia Gallagher

Judith Habicht-Mauche

Secretary/Parliamentarian

Andrew Dickson