



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Action Taken: The agenda was approved 10-0-0. The minutes were not yet ready.

II. Chair's Report

Chair Partho Ghosh

The Chair reported that he had been to five meetings: two UCAD Plus, APC, UCAD, and Council. Topics included the survey of graduate deans on how enrollment targets are set, resources for students who have had their research curtailed, and program reviews. There has been a concern about lack of humanities faculty on UCAD Plus. The Chair is working with Senate Vice Chair Scott on the graduate education section of the final UCAD report. The four points that will be in the UCAD graduate section deal with research funding assistance, academic personnel evaluations during the disruptions, program resizing and restructuring, and the need for flexibility in course offerings and modalities. There is pressure for more online graduate programs. The UCAD report points to Future of Graduate education Report, which may be problematic. There are ongoing negotiations with the UAW. The union asked for major increases in salary, and there have been some unfair labor complaints, so there may be a strike at the end of January. There's a task force on artificial intelligence that put out a report which deals with many issues in terms of both education and research.

Members had questions and there was discussion.

III. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Senate Chair

Susannah Scott, Academic Senate Vice Chair

Senate Chair Palazoglu said that there will be communication from UCAD later this month. There is a provision for all of the workgroups to provide some interim reports by February, if they have any. There is some flexibility if more time is needed.

Academic Council met, as well as the Regents. There is an upcoming Assembly meeting and then the Regents and Council will meet again.

There is nothing new to report on the UCLA/DOJ front. There was a lawsuit in November that had a good outcome, but nothing new has been heard beyond that. President Milliken's view was not to pursue litigation but offer a willingness to have good faith negotiations with the federal government. However, that has not happened yet. In November, Council reviewed the revisions to APM 015-016 and there was substantial feedback. The Senate distilled it and sent it to the administration. In response, Deputy Provost Lee has revised the original proposal. That response was discussed at December Council, where the revision was endorsed. The Regents will only be voting on 015-016; then conforming changes will be made to the relevant Bylaws.

Chair Palazoglu remarked that it is budget season. CFO Brostrom introduced the budget and the continuation of the tuition stability plan. The Regents approved it. Now UC is awaiting the governor's proposal, which traditionally happens on January 10. On the labor front, Provost Newman has been updating Senate leadership on UAW contract negotiations; there was a one-month contract extension.

The UCAD Plus groups are working hard and making progress. At the last UCAD Senate meeting, the final report was discussed; it should come out in January. It will have two new sections: one on DEI, and one on graduate education. There will also be two position papers, one on UC Health and one on the UC budget.

Senate Vice Chair Scott discussed the workgroup looking at the performance of undergraduate degree programs. The workgroup met through the fall and came up with some very preliminary draft recommendations, which were presented to APC in December.

There were some questions and discussion about UCAD "fatigue."

IV. Consultation with UC Legal Regarding DEI Issues

Kimberly Robinson, UC Legal

The UC Legal representative was unable to attend.

V. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Ele Grandi

Vice Chair Grandi informed the group that she had attended CoGD, and the main focus was UCAD Plus and graduate education. There seemed to be little appetite for a top-down mandate from UCAD Plus. The deans also emphasized the importance of flexibility and campus-driven approaches, in addition to emphasizing initiatives that each campus has already taken. In response to President Milliken's question about lost trust in higher education, the deans agreed to form a group to think about how they can support the leadership in addressing the concerns from the public and the declining trust in academia. The deans also discussed international students and enrollment status around filing fees.

VI. Council of Graduate Deans' Report

Peter Biehl, UCSC

Dean Biehl observed that there is a lot of confusion and fatigue and a feeling of “busywork” with regard to UCAD Plus; despite that, the deans are trying to help. The graduate deans have been asked to complete a questionnaire, but there is concern that a graduate dean, provost, EVC, or chancellor telling programs what they need to do with regard to enrollment is quite problematic. The campuses have local enrollment management fine-tuned to the individual departments. The graduate deans also were asked to do a “show and tell” about the achievements in graduate education on the individual campuses. However, they are wondering why these questions are being asked and what purpose they serve. He discussed the UC graduate team’s visit to Washington, DC. The highlight of the visit was spending time with Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. He said that something must be done about the severe erosion of trust in higher education. Finally, Dean Biehl discussed the issue of filing fees for international students which has been brought up to the Provost’s level and concern around H1B visas.

Members had some questions.

VII. Announcements from Academic Affairs

Pamela Jennings, Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Studies

Todd Greenspan, Executive Advisor, Academic Planning and Policy

Carmen Corona, Director of Academic Planning and Policy

Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst

AVP Jennings emphasized Dean Biehl’s comments and said that – with regard to the visit to Washington - it did not feel futile. The staffers are continuing to do the work, and it was time well-spent. The UC-HSI deadline was last month, and applications are under review now. The UC-HBCU is now open and the deadline is March 16 at noon.

Director Corona provided a brief update on the OPM policy. The interim policy is in place and she is now looking at the comments to create a final policy; she hopes to have it ready by January 22. Council had some questions about the interim policy, but was largely in support of it.

Analyst Procello said that the CSU proposals were sent to the Provost and President before break. The Provost did not make any changes, and her office is now working on a final letter to the CSU Chancellor. The deadline is Tuesday, and the Senate will be informed of the outcome.

Executive Advisor Greenspan commented that his office is in the midst of finalizing enrollment trends. UC is seeing modest declines in doctoral and academic masters and some increases in professional and health sciences degrees. Some campuses are re-looking at non-resident enrollment. The governor’s January budget will come out on Friday and it may affect enrollment conversations. The fall enrollment dashboard will go up shortly. SSGPDP enrollments went up about 400 from last year to about 13k.

VIII. Campus Reports

Members reported on graduate-related issues from their campuses.

IX. New Program Proposals

- A. Proposal for an Online Master of Business Administration (OMBA) from the Riverside Division [SSGPDP]

Lead Reviewer: Wayne Steward

The Lead Reviewer said that he is still expecting a couple more reviews.

- B. Proposal for an En Route MA in Criminology, Law and Society from the Irvine Division

Lead Reviewer: Irene Beattie

The Lead Reviewer remarked that she had just received the latest proposal revision from the campus, and that it seems reasonable.

Action Taken: The proposal was approved 11-0-1.

- C. Proposal for an Online Master of Engineering in Water Resources Engineering from the Davis Division [SSGPDP]

Lead Reviewer: Neil Gilbert

The Lead Reviewer said he has four reviews in hand that were generally supportive but had some suggestions. He sent those to the proposers and asked them to respond. The major concerns were with managing academic rigor with an asynchronous online program, especially in this era of AI.

- D. Proposal for an MS in Global Regulatory Science and Innovation (GRSI) from the San Francisco Division [SSGPDP]

Lead Reviewer: Baolin Wu

The Lead Reviewer has received one review; it was generally very positive.

- E. Proposal for Online Masters of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Biomedical Engineering for Healthcare Technologies from the Davis Division [SSGPDP]

Lead Reviewer: Hyle Park

The Lead Reviewer has three reviews in and has gotten some clarification about their concerns. They think the proposal is strong, however supervision of the capstone is a significant faculty workload.

- F. Proposal for an MS and PhD in Life and Environmental Sciences from the Merced Division

Lead Reviewer: Joe McFadden

The Lead Reviewer has four reviews in hand and they are all positive. Furthermore, they all agreed on the need for the program. They liked the disciplinarity of the department. They had some suggestions, but no corrections.

Action Taken: The proposal was approved 11-0-1.

- G. Proposal for a Master of Design (MDes) from the San Diego Division

Lead Reviewer: Erkin Seker

The Lead Reviewer has two reviews in hand and expects three more.

- H. Proposal for an MA in Anthropology from the Santa Cruz Division

Action Taken: New Proposal Requested

- I. Proposal for a 4+1 BS/MS in Mathematics from the Riverside Division

Action Taken: Sutanu Sarkar was appointed as Lead Reviewer.

X. Transfers, Name Changes, Consolidations, and Discontinuances

- A. Proposal to Discontinue the B.A. degree in Design Media Arts and establish the B.A. in Design, B.A. in Games, and B.A. in Computational Art from the Los Angeles Division

This item was mistakenly placed on the agenda; it is an undergraduate issue.

- B. Proposal for a Simple Name Change for the Graduate Program Master of Arts in Statistics to Master of Arts in Statistics and Data Science from the Berkeley Division

Action Taken: The proposal was approved 8-0-1.

XI. Preparation for Meeting with Provost Newman in February

The committee suggested topics to discuss with the Provost. Analyst Harms will set up a Google Doc to collect thoughts and suggestions.

XII. New Business

There was no New Business.

XIII. Executive Session

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.

The committee adjourned at 1:30 p.m.