

COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes**Action Taken The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed, 11-0-0.****II. Chair's Report***Chair Dean Tantillo*

The Chair reported that the Provost came to Council. It seems that the Provost believes that undergraduate online degrees are a foregone conclusion, but there is a task force on the issue and hopefully there will be a lot of faculty input considered. Academic Personnel and Programs staff were there and they made it clear that they are not trying to prescribe what faculty should do, but merely trying to lower the University's risk. Chair Tantillo asked them what faculty are to do about 299s; they had little idea about the problem, which has led to a meeting he is having with them next week. Hopefully more guidance will be coming. The Provost is holding a one-day mini-congress, which is a follow up to the first congress and is focused on undergraduate students. There is some concern is that the administration is looking to replace traditional TAs with people who are not graduate students.

III. Vice Chair's Report*Vice Chair James Bisley*

The Vice Chair said he attended two meetings before the holiday break. The first was with UCACC, which featured considerable discussion about the loss of unlimited use of Google Drive and the subsequent effects of that decision. The group also discussed the AI Council, which is charged with producing a report to the Regents in June. The Council is very administrator-oriented; it is unclear why faculty are not included to a greater degree. The subcommittee on education, engagement, and learning, has nothing to do with education, but is focused on training people to use AI. Vice Chair Bisley noted that Senate Chair Steintrager would like to put together a Senate group to look at AI from the perspective of academics.

CoGD met; most of the meeting was filled by a visit with Provost Newman. The deans had questions regarding the kind of help they can get from OP. The Provost recognized that some of changes wanted by local administrators need faculty buy-in, otherwise they will not be successful. The graduate deans exchanged some dialog on the APC interim report, and it was felt that very few faculty on the campuses received the report, despite the workgroup's request for feedback. This is problematic. Finally, there was some discussion on SB 656 which would allow CSU campuses to offer "independent professional and applied doctoral degrees." This language raises the question of what constitutes an applied doctoral degree. There is some thought that CSU faculty do not

have the time or money to launch doctoral programs. That notwithstanding, the bill is still something that CCGA might want to monitor.

IV. Visit with the Provost

Katherine S. Newman, Provost

Chair Tantillo started the discussion with a question on the link between the fall congress on graduate education and the upcoming one on undergraduate education. He stated that he was concerned that UC is considering removing graduate students from being TAs, which is going to increase the burden on faculty. The Provost responded that the spirit of the second congress is to talk about ways in which things can be managed a positive fashion. She acknowledged that there is a real financial stress being placed on the University which will probably to a smaller number of TAs (as traditionally configured). However, the role of TAs may need to be adjusted to accommodate the advent of the contract. She underscored that the financial needs of UC graduate students are legitimate, however. The cost of living is high at many of the campuses and the students are suffering. Furthermore, the governor has just announced that the next few years are going to be tough financially. The University needs to determine how it can effectively manage the teaching responsibilities of faculty without “drowning” them. Provost Newman said that the upcoming congress will be a day-long examination of innovation. It will showcase faculty who have who have done exceptional work, what innovations they have pioneered, and how they have done that work. She encouraged members to invite their colleagues to the attend the congress, which will be held over Zoom. The Provost said that she hopes the congress will bring people together, encourage conversation, and inspire faculty.

Members had questions for the Provost, and there was discussion.

V. Announcements from Academic Affairs

Pamela Jennings, Executive Director of 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

Executive Director Jennings said that her office is working to support the systemwide workgroup on the future of doctoral education and its subgroups. Applications for the UC-HSI initiative have closed, and the reviews will be happening this winter. The graduate divisions are submitting nominations for the President’s Pre-Professorate Fellowship; they are due February 20. The goal of the Fellowship is to support students and give them special professional development support. The Executive Director noted that last year, in collaboration with the graduate divisions, her office was able to increase the number of fellows from two to three. It was also able to increase the fellowship amount. She closed by adding that her office is working with APP and labor relations on questions and issues related to unionization and negotiations.

Analyst Procello said that Academic Affairs has completed its review of the UCSD School of Computing Information and Data Sciences proposal and has forwarded it to the Provost. Next week should see the completion of the review of the UCI School of

Population Public Health.

Director Corona reminded the group that the congress on AI will be happening in February at UCLA. An invitation has also gone out for a congress on undergraduate education.

Executive Advisor Greenspan remarked that he had just come from an enrollment planning meeting. Student enrollment down roughly 1500 FTE, however the compact goals call for growth. The University needs to determine its stance going forward in light of this discrepancy. His office is waiting for the campuses to send their revised multi-year enrollment plans in March or April, and then it will act accordingly. Much will depend on the budget coming out of the governor's office.

VI. Campus Reports

UCB – The member had nothing to report.

UCD – The member had nothing to report.

UCI – The GC met before break and discussed the budget and the UAW contract. The campus is facing a significant deficit and has started thinking about what the implications might be for graduate education. The campus also has a subcommittee that's evaluating the interim report of the workgroup on the future of graduate education.

UCLA – The GC will be discussing the interim report. The member has been meeting with departments to determine how to eliminate 375 courses. The campus is also working on the MOU for its SSGPDPs.

UCM – The campus has been working on revisions to a 4+1 proposal and has been looking at the SJV Prime Plus program. The GC has been putting together recommendations for mitigating delays and setbacks students and postdocs experienced because of building closures, the pandemic, and the Oracle system. The campus is putting together two working groups, to deal with the restructuring of the TAs budget in response to the new higher costs. The campus has asked the GC to help determine the overall allocation and the distribution among the different academic units of the TAs' budget.

UCR – The GC is finalizing its guidance on 299s, and is going to hold a town hall to give assistance to faculty on "threading the needle" between 299s and the contract. It is also looking at the interim report.

UCSD – The member was not present.

UCSF – The GC has been discussing how to implement 299s. It is going to ask all of the graduate programs to add an addendum to their bylaws so that faculty can use those as templates to adapt for their own labs. The campus is also looking at the interim report.

UCSB – The GC is looking at developing guidance for departments and committees regarding the use of plagiarism detection tools for graduate student writings, demonstrations, theses, dissertations, etc. It is also looking to provide support for departments to think about holistic enrollment management, instead of having a sheer cap. It would like departments to consider the balance between Master's and PhDs and ensuring cohort success. The campus is collecting data and monitoring the health of its departments.

UCSC - At the last meeting, the GC finalized a memo on the 299 recommendations. The member started a series of meetings with the campus committee on teaching regarding

the student evaluation forms; students in small classes are concerned that the forms do not allow them anonymity. The member learned that the terms of the contract for TAs specifies that there cannot be a different evaluation form for graduate or undergraduate courses. The campus is working to reconcile the compact with local goals for graduate numbers.

VII. **Executive Session**

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.

VIII. **CoGD Report**

Dean Jean-Pierre Delplanque

Dean Delplanque remarked that Vice Chair Bisley had covered everything that had transpired in CoGD. He briefly discussed the issue of CSU offering applied doctoral degrees and talked about some of the joint UC/CSU programs that currently exist.

IX. **CCGA Feedback on the APC Interim Report on the Future of Graduate Education**

James Bisley, Vice Chair

Vice Chair Bisley shared the feedback he had received from members and his thoughts on what should be included in the CCGA report to the Workgroup. Members discussed the interim report and what points they would like to incorporate in the committee's response.

X. **Student Reports**

Ms. Brooks (UCLA) shared a slide deck about her recent activities, including an effort wherein 900 holiday meals were shared with students in graduate housing. February 19-20 will be Advocacy Day in Sacramento and she, along with other students, will speak with legislators on graduate student housing, basic needs, mental health, and mentorship. In April, she will travel to Washington, DC to pursue similar work at the federal level. Campus parking and transportation are issues of concern, particularly for students who are parents. She discussed other efforts taking place on the UCLA campus.

XI. **New Program Proposals**

- A. Proposal for a Master of Advanced Studies in Physician Assistant Studies on the San Diego Campus [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: Andrew Fisher

The Lead Reviewer received three reviews and the report from UCPB. He remarked that California really needs a program like this, and that it is highly appropriate for UC to run a program of this kind. That said UCPB had serious reservations about the financial fundamentals of the program. Furthermore, there are aspects of the program that don't quite "stack up" from an operational perspective. The Lead Reviewer recommended that the proposal be returned to the campus and that the proposers be asked to respond point-by-point to the issues raised in a "redline"

response.

Action Taken: Members voted to return the proposal to the campus, 11-0-0.

- B. Proposal for an MS in Artificial Intelligence and Computational Drug Discovery and Development on the San Francisco Campus [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: Edmund Campion

The Lead Reviewer reported that he and the proposers communicated at length over the winter break. The proposers sent a revised proposal that addressed areas of concern. In addition, they have a commitment from a dean in the School of Pharmacy to use her funds to cover deficits without expectation of payback. The proposers have updated their curriculum and course descriptions, and have increased the frequency of steering committee meetings. Finally, the UCPB report has recently been received and it recommended approval.

Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-1.

- C. Proposal for an MS in Medical Physiology on the Los Angeles Campus [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: David Booth

The Lead Reviewer is securing internal and external reviewers. He asked a question of the UCLA representative regarding the proposal.

- D. Proposal for a School of Computing, Information, and Data Science on the San Diego Campus
Lead Reviewer: Chandra Krintz

The Lead Reviewer discussed the proposal. She informed the committee that the campus had submitted a pre-proposal last year, which was approved. She was able to secure the same two reviewers as last year plus an additional reviewer. She remarked that the proposal was missing some critical pieces. She will go back and ask them to address those items, and will report back at the February meeting.

- E. Proposal for a PhD in Public Health with a Concentration in Health Services Research and Implementation Science on the San Diego Campus

Action Taken: Sarita See was assigned as Lead Reviewer.

XII. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

James Steintrager, Academic Senate Chair

Steven Cheung, Academic Senate Vice Chair

Senate Chair Steintrager remarked that the governor released his budget proposal plan and it included the funding for UC. It looks like the compact will hold, but in a deferred way. The five percent payment will be put off until next year to make 10 percent.

The presidential task force on undergraduate modalities has finalized membership and will begin meeting shortly. There have been some preliminary meetings held. Senate Vice Chair Cheung is co-chairing that group with Vice Provost Haynes. Senate Vice Chair Cheung said that the group had a fairly tight timeline with an interim report due in

April and a final report due at the end of August. It has already begun to look at data needs with IRAP. Chair Steintrager added that one of the immediate drivers of this taskforce was Regental interest in expanding UC's online offerings, including fully online undergraduate degrees. This was compounded by Regental dismay about the Assembly-approved change requiring some in-person instruction. The Chair added that there has been long-standing interest on the part of the Senate on having a joint Senate-administration workgroup that would look into things like quality metrics and data and how the University might go about responsibly expanding its online capacity. Chair Steintrager observed that the campus residency requirement approved by the Assembly did not go to the Board last year, but will be going before them later this month. Regents' Bylaw 40 spells out the delegated authority of the Senate, including over admissions, curricula, and degree requirements, but Regental Bylaw 22 spells out the reserved authorities of the Regents which seem to overlap that authority. In the case of degree agreements, the Regents have the ability to approve or not approve recommendations brought by the Senate. The Chair expressed the hope that the Regents' decision will keep with the recommendation that the taskforce ultimately makes, but since the taskforce is finishing its work after the Regents meet, that remains to be determined.

Chair Steintrager told the group about a labor relations issue that went through Council. Council members met with a consultant to provide or input on how labor relations went relative to the strike lead-up and aftermath. The general sense on Council was that the Senate should be doing more to inform the next negotiating team prior to any labor action in order to avoid the pitfalls that were encountered last time. These views will also be expressed directly to the Provost. The Senate is hoping to pattern future negotiations on those that were made with the librarians, which included a faculty member directly on the negotiating team. The Chair closed by telling the committee that the Berkeley chancellor search probably will be completed by May, and the UCLA search will be finished by June.

Members had questions for the Senate leadership, and there was considerable discussion.

XIII. Employment Exception Policy for NSF GRFP Fellows

Brooke Scelza, UCLA

Professor Scelza brought up the issue of "heritage disciplines" at UCLA and explained that some of them are covered under the new contract and some are not. This is tied to the ways that fellowships play out in different disciplines. She asked if other campuses had heritage disciplines and how they were handled. No members had heard of heritage disciplines before, and there was considerable confusion.

Analyst Harms will contact labor relations and ask that they come to the February meeting to discuss this and other issues.

XIV. New Business

The committee reviewed and approved some small changes made by UCEP to the

proposed policy on awarding degrees posthumously.

Members were asked to inquire with their graduate councils about industry partnerships, specifically what policies are in place in to ensure (1) academic freedom and integrity, particularly to allow free communication of research at the student's home institution and (2) compliance with anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies to create a safe educational environment in the industrial setting. They should bring their GC's responses back to the February meeting.

The committee adjourned at 3:36 p.m.