



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

In attendance: James Bisley, Chair, Partho Ghosh, Vice Chair, Ilan Adler (UCB), Eleonora Grandi (UCD), Tonya Williams Bradford (UCI), April Thames (UCLA), John Abatzoglou (UCM), Sarita See (UCR), Wayne Steward (UCSF), Alex Simms (UCSB), Chad Saltikov (UCSC), Sutanu Sarkar (UCSD), Peter Biehl (CoGD), Ryan Manriquez (student, UCB), Rebecca Ruiz (student, UCI), Steven Cheung, Ahmet Palazoglu, Todd Greenspan, Pamela Jennings, Chris Procello, Courtney Wilson, Amy Lee, Phillip Harmon, and Fredye Harms (analyst)

I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Action Taken: *The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed 12-0-0.*

II. Chair's Report

Chair James Bisley

The Chair alerted the committee to some slight changes to the agenda.

Chair Bisley encouraged the group to inform their colleagues about the calendar conversion workgroup, which is meeting every two weeks. Vice President Pamela Brown put together a series of mock dates and the group talked about those in the second meeting. However, the focus quickly went to a version of the calendar that was in quarters but would start earlier. The Chair noted that shifting the calendar may solve many problems. Arguments were made that the semester allows students more time, but the quarter system gives students more of a chance to bring their grade up. The committee hosted guests from systems who have undergone the change, and the questions that were raised largely had to do with what the faculty got in compensation for having to change all of their calendars completely. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo gave cash, but the other institutions did not. He noted that one of those on the panel said in the chat, "My personal opinion is that it's not a decision that any institution would voluntarily choose to make".

The Assembly held a special Zoom meeting on Jan 17 to discuss compensation, however, it was postponed due to technical difficulties. There were many comments in the meeting chat saying this problem was deliberate, but it was not. In response, the Senate has cancelled the next Assembly meeting and rescheduled the special meeting for February 13. Separately, the Chair attended one budget meeting, Discussion was dominated by the recent Executive Orders and how they are affecting the University.

II. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Steven W. Cheung, Academic Senate Chair

Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Senate Vice Chair

Senate Chair Cheung remarked that the Regents are quite exercised about faculty discipline. The vast majority of discipline cases are resolved through remediation; however, there are a couple of concerns the Senate needs to address. The Regents seem unsure if faculty are trustworthy on matters of faculty discipline. They are wondering if discipline and P&T should be broadened to incorporate a systemwide approach. They also believe that cases of dismissal and ongoing investigations seem to take more time that is warranted. While the number of such cases is slight, it is the driving force behind the Regents' concerns. The Senate will be looking at these processes and collecting data from all the divisions to get a sense of how things are handled. The Regents and the legislature are asking if UC has consistent disciplinary practices; there is a state budget condition of \$25 M dependent on consistency in discipline. The Senate and Academic Affairs held a presentation at the last Regents' meeting and discussed creating data-gathering system, which will be expensive. Relatedly, the committee on APM 015 and 016 started off on that charge (determining if the policies need to change to achieve consistency) and the response was that 015 and 016 are capacious and suitable. The group next was supposed to next be considering the issue of concurrent discipline and advancement cases. There was a revision that proposed language the Council rejected. Faculty were troubled by the notion that a colleague would be presumed guilty before a hearing was held. However, that discussion will now be postponed until fall 2025. The Regents want to hear in May about the discipline issue, which means the work needs to be completed by the end of March.

The Chair then discussed the budget. He said the University was set for a cut of roughly \$270M, with no further buy-out of NRST (non-resident student tuition). This means that Berkeley, UCSD, and UCLA will probably be taking more non-resident students, which is not good news for California students, but is a budget reality. The capacity of the University to stay within the governor's compact is in question. If the budget is flat, UC can grow one percent a year. However, relief for the fires in Los Angeles mean that revenue is unlikely to come to UC. There will probably be a pause to that part of the compact.

Members had questions for the Senate leadership.

IV. Consultation with Theresa Maldonado and Phil Harman

Theresa Maldonado, VP for Research and Innovation

Phil Harman, Director of Research, Federal Government Relations

Vice President Maldonado was unable to join the meeting.

Director Harmon discussed the many Executive Orders that had been issued from the White House since President Trump's inauguration. Of particular note were EOs related to DEI efforts and their effect on federal grant funding. He explained that the University was in a holding pattern until the agencies are able to resolve the situation; there likely will be many court cases related to the EOs in the interim. He emphasized that FGR is doing its best to gather as much intelligence as possible and open the communication lines between the PIs and project managers.

Members had questions for Director Harmon and there was discussion.

V. 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
Courtney Wilson, Institutional Research and Planning Analyst

Analysts Procello and Wilson presented a slide deck reviewing the 2024-29 Perspectives from the campuses.

Director Corona reported that her office has put a committee together to look at the findings of the state auditor with regard to OPMs and is meeting tomorrow to try to agree on policies and guidelines.

Executive Advisor Greenspan said that the President had sent out the 2025-26 enrollment plans. He mentioned the NRST issue, and he said there will be fewer California residents. PhD applications have increased.

AVP Jennings remarked that her office getting questions from faculty about grants that are being funded by UC. She said that there is an open call right now for UC-HBCU proposals. The SIEML program application cycle is closed and will shortly be going through the review process.

/I. Council of Graduate Deans' Report

Dean Peter Biehl, UCSC

Dean Biehl thanked AVP Jennings and her office for arranging for the graduate deans to meet regularly with the VCRs. He told the group that the graduate deans now have a PowerPoint on graduate education for Labor Relations. He explained that the graduate deans are working with Meredith Turner (SVP, External Relations and Communications), Sacramento, and Washington, DC to put more focus on graduate education. The graduate deans had a 90-minute meeting with Provost Newman and were impressed by her interest and advocacy for graduate education. The graduate deans are concerned that the report about the future of graduate education "sitting on the shelf;" they are wondering what the Provost will do to incentivize implementation of ideas brought forward in the report.

II. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Partho Ghosh

Vice Chair Ghosh informed the committee that UCACC discussed UC procurements considering buying Chat GPT for all students. The cost would be \$36M a year. The committee discussed the possible merits of such a purchase. CoGD considered the issue of trying to obtain funding for training grants; there is no long-term solution at this point. The issue of postdoctoral students and H-1B visas is significant. The Vice Chair mentioned the issue of Proposition 209 and how it may be affected by Executive Orders being issued by the Trump

administration. Finally, he discussed Degree Plus, which the Provost has mentioned, and which would allow UC Extension to increase the number of four-plus-one programs.

II. New Program Proposals

- A. Proposal for a Master of Public Administration from the Irvine Division [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: Wayne Steward

The Lead Reviewer said he had three reviewers secured and is working on getting a fourth.

X. Transfers, Name Changes, Consolidations, and Discontinuances

- A. Proposal for a Simple Name Change from the MS in Applied Economics and Finance to the MS in Quantitative Economics and Finance from the Santa Cruz Division

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

X. Updates from Special Workgroups

- A. Double-Counting of Units

Professors Adler (UCB) and Sarkar (UCSD) explained that they had looked at double counting of units for 4+1 (hybrid) programs and for dual degree programs. For hybrid programs, they determined that CCGA should not allow double counting of any units, but that it could allow a portion (no more than half) of graduate degree units to be taken as an undergraduate. For dual degree programs, they determined that the WSCUC guidelines of 25 percent of the courses being taken (not of the courses offered) should be allowed. They proposed specific language for both situations, which was then voted on by members.

Action Taken: Members approved to change the language in the Handbook regarding dual degrees; the change to the language on 4+1 degrees in the Compendium will be brought forward during the next revision of that document. The vote was 12-0-0.

- B. *En Route* Master's Degrees

Professors Grandi and Thames reviewed the language regarding *en route* master's degrees, with particular attention to criterion four. They shared their proposed changes with the group. The committee discussed the suggested changes at length. Final language will be presented at the March meeting.

- C. Substantive Change

Professors Williams-Bradford and Steward talked about the possible definitions of substantive change and what would serve as a minimum threshold for CCGA review. They also speculated as to how such changes would be tracked at the divisions. More information will be shared at a later meeting.

I. Council Feedback and Next Steps: Policy on Awarding Degrees Posthumously

Chair Bisley shared that Council feedback with varied with some members saying the proposed policy was too strict, while others said it was too lenient. The Chair met with the chair of UCEP and discussed how to minimize the points that gave Council pause. They posited that perhaps a set of guiding principles might be more helpful to the divisions. He asked if any CCGA members would be willing to work on the issue.

Action Taken: Chad Saltikov (UCSC) and Chair Bisley will work with UCEP on new language.

II. Systemwide Information and Items Under Systemwide Review

A. Senate Chair Cheung’s Remarks to the Board of Regents

B. Proposed Revisions to APM Section 675, Veterinary Medicine Salary Administration

Members chose not to opine on these revisions.

C. Proposed Revisions to APM 036, General University Policy Regarding Academic Appointees/Employment

Chair Bisley briefly outlined the revisions, which are being proposed in response to a new law. Members had strong feelings about the proposed language and discussed it at length. Analyst Harms will draft a letter to Council capturing the committee’s concerns.

II. Planning: Meeting with the Provost in April

Chair Bisley observed that the Provost originally had been invited because it was assumed that the University would be in the midst of negotiations with GSRs at this time. However, the contract has been extended, and that is no longer the case. He asked the committee what issues it would like to discuss with her. Three that were suggested were:

- Federal-level activities;
- Her views on graduate education and the report on its future: How will she engage the divisions and departments to make the report actions more of a grassroots effort;
- What value does she think the faculty get from the congresses.

V. Executive Session (1)

A. Consultation with Systemwide Academic Personnel
Amy K. Lee, Deputy Provost, Academic Personnel

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.

V. Campus and Student Reports

Members and the student representatives commented on issues related to graduate education from their divisions.

I. New Business

The student representatives raised the issue of admission processes for international students. This item may be an issue for UCIE.

II. Executive Session (2)

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.

The committee adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Fredye Harms, Committee Analyst
Attest: James Bisley, Committee Chair