

## COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

**Minutes of Meeting**

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

**I. Approval of the Agenda and the Minutes of the March 7, 2018 meeting.****Action Taken:** *The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed.***II. Chair's Report - Chair Karen Duderstadt**

The Chair shared the administration's recent budget slide deck with the committee. She noted that it brought to light some of the important points regarding the University's current challenges and the situation with the Regents and with the state. She called particular attention to the slides on student/faculty ratios, the faculty salary gap, funding per-student, and the possible ramifications of the Huron Report. She noted that it is important for the campuses to help highlight positive news about the University: its contributions to California, student financial assistance, DACA students, etc. Executive Director Pamela Jennings added that it is helpful to get members of the state legislature involved on the campuses, but that it is difficult to build momentum on that front because the members change frequently. Also, the public does not feel that UC is threatened or in decline; it sees the University as stable and constant.

The Chair discussed the Provost's task forces on academic planning and on graduate education. Committee members are welcome to join either of the task forces if they wish. One primary goal of the task forces is to focus on messaging: to simplify the message for the public and the Regents. The academic planning task force has developed some preliminary themes for messaging about the academic mission: the value of knowledge, value of UC's leadership in the state, how the University builds knowledge through research, and the value of UC's contributions over the past 150 years. However, it encourages additional ideas and input from the committee. The task force on graduate education is meeting tomorrow.

**III. Vice Chair's Report – Vice Chair Onyebuchi Arah**

- **Academic Council Meeting**  
The Vice Chair reported that there was some talk about the March Regents' meeting, which made the front page of the *LA Times*. The Regents voted 9-3 to increase the NRST, but did not raise resident tuition. The Vice Chair observed that UC has become quite expensive for non-residents. The Council also discussed the President's charge to guarantee admission for California Community College students who qualify. He said that members of the Council asked the Provost when UC "will say enough is enough." The University cannot keep expanding and accepting unfunded students. Mr. Arah added that UC needs to start collecting evidence on the problems it is facing and find a way to package that information for those who make the decisions.
- **UCORP ITS MRU Review**  
The Vice Chair encouraged members to share any opinions they might have about the ITS review.
- **Policy on Open Access for Theses and Dissertations**  
The Vice Chair said that all the divisions had now responded to the proposed policy as had a few of the systemwide committees. He noted that there seemed to be significant pushback on the proposed embargo period. The committee discussed the proposed policy at length, with emphasis on the

actions of publishers in response to open access, the embargo period, and the implementation of open access in other countries.

#### **IV. Announcements from Academic Affairs**

*Art Ellis, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies*

*Todd Greenspan, Director of Academic Planning*

*Pamela Jennings, Executive Director of Graduate Studies*

*Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst*

Analyst Chris Procello reminded the committee that UC is having a systemwide meeting of the directors of teaching and learning centers in May. UCEP has also been involved in the idea of standardized training for TAs. Some campuses have almost mandatory training while other campuses do not require it at all (though it is available). It also varies by field. Mr. Procello said he would share outcomes from the meeting with the committee in June.

Director Todd Greenspan said that the Budget Office is in the process of finalizing the memo about approving the fees that SSGPDPs may charge. Some are going over the 5% benchmark. Still others are requesting less and some are requesting decreases. Five percent has been the benchmark for the past couple of years. He added that some SSGPDPs are impacting state-supported programs and are enrolling traditional students.

Executive Director Pamela Jennings discussed Graduate Research Day which was held in March and was successful. The deans came to Sacramento with the students; the students were able to share their research and how it is befitting California. This year UC also held a Grad Slam showcase in Sacramento that went really well. Grad Slam itself will be May 3 in San Francisco.

Vice President Art Ellis said that there had been a number of meetings between grad deans and VCRs. He will be working with the grad deans to set up a joint meeting probably for the fall. He asked committee members to suggest topics and mentioned that the meeting could perhaps include some members from CCGA.

#### **V. SSPGDP Evaluations – Update**

The Chair asked committee members for input on questions developed by Analyst Chris Procello. The committee discussed which person/s on each campus would answer the questions. It was agreed that the questions would go out in two phases, with perhaps different responders for each phase. The survey would try to determine to what degree (if any) SSGPDPs impact traditional programs, endanger research life and restrict undergraduate enrollment. The Chair suggested that the survey start in the spring, with the goal of having the results ready by the fall.

#### **VI. New Program Proposals**

##### **A. Proposal for a MS in Coastal Science and Policy on the Santa Cruz Campus**

*– Lead Reviewer Teamrat Ghezzehei*

The Lead Reviewer said it was difficult to get reviewers; in the end he was only able to get one internal and one external reviewer, which is very unusual. Students will take 10 required courses: the first three are very broad (e.g., evolution would be covered in one lecture). The syllabi are well-designed but could be challenging for students who are not well-motivated. The proposers will be partnering with NGOs for internships and expect to get some funding for student stipends from these organizations. The internships will be used to develop capstone projects. Capstone seminars will be used to fill gaps that are not filled in the required courses. The program is going to be reviewed after the first three years.

Reviewers expressed some concerns about the internships also felt that the internship relationship should start well in advance. Chair Duderstadt voiced concern that only one internal and one external review were received but the committee ultimately decided that the two reviews represented a broad enough evaluation of the proposal. She specified that the three-year evaluation should include the course content.

**Action Taken:** *The proposal was approved 9-0-0.*

- B. Proposal for a MS in Serious Games on the Santa Cruz Campus {PDST} – *Lead Reviewer Hyle Park*  
Overall, the program is quite strong. However, reviewers asked how the proposers would differentiate it from the game development program that is already on the campus. The Lead Reviewer plans to have a response ready to mail back to the proposers by the end of next week.
- C. Proposal for a MS/PhD in Statistical Sciences on the Santa Cruz Campus  
– *Lead Reviewer Jon Wilkening/ Holger Mueller*  
The proposers wrote saying they were not ready with their response but might be ready by May.
- D. Proposal for a MS in Science Communication on the Santa Cruz Campus  
– *Lead Reviewer Dyché Mullins*  
The Lead Reviewer said this is a very strong program. It has been around since 1981 and is ground-breaking in a lot of ways. It is a model for other programs that have come along since then and has strong name recognition and a high success rate. Reviewers expressed some concern was the cost of the program relative to the starting salaries for graduates. The proposers are looking to increase endowment or do something else to decrease the cost of the program.  
**Action Taken:** *The proposal was approved 10-0-0.*
- E. Proposal to establish a Master of Arts in Indo-European Studies (within its existing PhD program) on the UCLA Campus – *Lead Reviewer Gina Dent*  
The Lead Reviewer was not present but sent an update. She has reviewers and the responses were almost finished.
- F. Proposal to establish a professional Master of Science in Genetic Counseling on the UCLA Campus  
– *Lead Reviewer Greta Hsu*  
The Lead Reviewer was not present but sent an update. She has reviewers.
- G. Proposal to establish a Master of Innovation and Entrepreneurship degree on the Irvine Campus [SSGPDP] – *Lead Reviewer Holger Mueller*  
The Lead Reviewer has solicited reviewers, but has yet to hear back.
- H. Proposal to establish a degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) on the Merced Campus – *Lead Reviewer Bernard Kirtman*  
The Lead Reviewer has solicited reviewers, but has yet to receive a positive response.
- I. Proposal to establish a PhD in History and Theory of Music on the Irvine Campus  
**Action Taken:** *Caroline Streeter was assigned as the Lead Reviewer.*
- J. Proposal to establish an MA in Global Health on the San Diego Campus  
**Action Requested:** *Glen Mimura was assigned as the Lead Reviewer.*

## **VII. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership**

*Academic Council Chair Shane White*

*Academic Council Vice Chair Robert May*

*NB: The Chair and Vice Chair joined via videoconference from Sacramento.*

Council Chair Shane White observed that the University seems to be doing much better in Sacramento as of late and Assemblyman Medina has written asking for full funding of UC and CSU to the chair of the Budget Committee; the Higher Education Subcommittee has gotten 40 Assemblymen to join in the letters. A good foundation has been built for next year and the next governor. Regent Kieffer has been a big help. SGR (State Government Relations) has been helping by reaching out to faculty, students, and chancellors to speak in Sacramento.

The Council Chair discussed these main topics of interest:

Salary Gap – UCFW drew attention to the salary gap early in the year and Council forwarded the letter to the President. She responded and the Council wrote back with a specific plan with numbers. Mr. White said that the Chancellors are pushing back because they think the faculty are too expensive; they do accept that there is a salary gap on most campuses but they want discretionary control over the funding. He said that the President is committed to doing something and is going to make a decision soon. Anything that gets built into the scale is something that will be compounded over time.

Retiree Health – Vice Chair Robert May said that the working group has been meeting through the spring and will be having two more meetings next month to develop recommendations. So far, the focus has been related to cost, cost drivers, the plan for non-Medicare retirees, the plan for Medicare retirees, and the levers to deal with those plans. He said that the group has all the information it needs, and it should be able to make some preliminary recommendations by June. The Vice Chair said that the group is very thoughtful and probing and cares deeply about the wellbeing of retirees and maintaining strong benefits going forward.

Transfers - The California Community Colleges Chancellor (who is also a UC Regent) has been asking UC to take anyone who graduates from CCC and guarantee admission. He has been applying a lot of pressure. The President announced that she would put in place a transfer guarantee and wrote a letter to the Council asking them to affirm it based on its 21 Transfer Pathways and GPA criteria. Chair White said that this guarantee may incentivize the CCCs to better prepare their students and make them aware of the transfer pathways.

## **VIII. Updates from the Campuses**

There were no new updates since the last meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:21.