

COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Action Taken: *The agenda and minutes were approved.*

II. Chair's Report - Chair Ramesh Balasubramaniam

The Chair reported that since the last meeting he had met with the UCAP and they were talking about mentoring and most members were surprised that the word mentoring is not in the APM. The plan is to change the wording in APM 210 to teaching and mentoring. The Chair and the UCAP chair are working on sending word to Council and then working on other areas to get approval for the change.

There was supposed to be a meeting of the SSGPDP subgroup, but it was not held due to disruptions from COVID-19. The Chair hopes to have a meeting in the middle of this month. That group has converged on some action items. The Senate wants to have better oversight over these programs but collecting data on these can be difficult. He said that they also want to ask them questions about diversity, equity and inclusion and how are the funds being spent.

The Chair has had conversations with Executive Director of Graduate Studies Pamela Jennings about the inability to get the GRE because of COVID-19. The University is not taking SAT scores into account next year as it has in the past. Does it want to do something similar with the GRE?

There has been some conversation around the UCSC strike. There was an offer from the University to the students. The students replied with a counter offer, and the University rejected it. The students do have their health insurance in place to deal With COVID-19.

III. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Council Chair

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Vice Chair

The Senate Chair reiterated that the graduate student health benefits were restored. Provost Brown is still very clear that he is not happy with the Senate with regard to the strike. He said that the graduate students had set back their cause with the legislature because the strike was harming undergraduates.

Cohort tuition was taken off the agenda at the March Regents' meeting. It was also decided that there would be no tuition refunds if someone wants to withdraw after the first day.

It is likely that there will be no range adjustments to faculty salaries. It is going to be a flat budget this year. The legislature will get the budget through in May; the state needs to pass the budget by June 15. The increase the governor had suggested in January will not happen.

The Senate is sending out a survey about the shift to remote instruction. It is being led by UCEP. It will be a simple survey for instructors and for students.

At the Regents' meeting, there was a primer on standardized testing. The Council has discussed the report of the Standardized Testing Taskforce and passed a motion saying they endorsed the report and in 5 years they should do the same analysis and see what it indicates. The report and recommendation

will now go to Assembly, who will then send a recommendation to the President. The goal is to have the President's recommendation to the Regents at their May meeting.

Presidential Search: The AAC met with the special committee in March and has forwarded names of potential candidates. The Regents will be making phone calls to the candidates they are interested in.

The GO Bond failed which is a significant setback for UC.

There is a Chancellor search underway for Merced. The interviews were done just before shelter in place.

There is no requirement for the SAT to be taken for 2020-21 applicants. The test is optional. The Regents have said it is suspended.

The Taskforce on Online Undergraduate Degrees will submit a report.

The Extending Faculty Diversity Taskforce has been talking for the past year or two about retention. When the administration talks about diversity they are talking about retention now. The Taskforce is trying to think of creative ways to retain faculty.

Chair Balasubramaniam asked if CCGA should send a note to the campus graduate councils encouraging people to make the GRE optional for the coming year or relax the requirement. Ms. Jennings observed that there are countries where it is impossible to take the GRE at this time. The Chair agreed and said that access to the GRE will be restricted to URM communities who are being disproportionately affected by COVID. It was agreed that the Chair would send a note to the graduate councils.

IV. Announcements from Academic Affairs

Theresa Maldonado, Vice President of Research and Innovation

Todd Greenspan, Director of Academic Planning

Pamela Jennings, Executive Director of Graduate Studies

Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst

Ms. Jennings said that the graduate deans have been hearing from faculty, graduate students, and reporters about the normative time to degree. Her office is trying to look at normative time as it impacts international students. It had been changed by Regental action and her office is trying to determine if Regental action is needed to deal with COVID-19. The big question is around funding relief on a number of fronts. Departments and programs are looking at that as well. The committee discussed this.

Director of Academic Planning Todd Greenspan said that one issue is that all of the summer sessions have decided to go remote except Santa Barbara, which probably will soon. Students are showing more units per student for undergraduates. So far, the University is doing well in terms of state FTE. All of the campuses submitted the four-year enrollment plans. The campuses are proposing growing about four thousand in graduate students. Three thousand would be academics, one thousand would be professionals. They forecast a growth of 1800 students in self-supporting programs. There is modest growth at the undergraduate level.

Analyst Chris Procello remarked that WASC has been very responsive to accreditation questions. Campuses do not need to request special permission for going remote (online), which had been the case in the past. Campuses are talking about summer sessions going remote. WASC is willing to lobby the DOE about this. If the Department of Education will agree that all classes before October 2 are

fine moving remote, then the University should be fine through December. The deadline for the Five-Year Planning Perspectives was June 1 and has now been moved to September 15. A report on the Perspectives will probably not be available until next spring.

Vice President of Research and Graduate Education Theresa Maldonado remarked that research personnel have been a really big concern over the past month. The Provost will be spending time this afternoon with the research group; the VCRs are looking for answers. She challenged them to offer key critical issues and maybe make some recommendations for OP to consider. She asked how would UC maintain its research operations and enterprise in a remote setting and also how will it ramp back up once COVID is over.

V. Graduate Education Issues in Light of COVID 19

Davis – The campus has relaxed the rules about how many classes can be taken P/NP. It also has have talked about the accessibility of standardized tests.

UCSD – San Diego has been really resistant to online programs and degrees. It is not clear how that is resolving now. There are some masters programs that are only one year long so they are becoming a fully online degree.

UCSF – The campus has had to suspend all non-essential activities which means all research not related to COVID-19. Students are considered non-essential personnel and it is unclear how to keep them engaged. The situation is evolving constantly. The campus has put out information on student mental health resources. The Chancellor has said that there are hiring freezes, but they might still be able to hire lab technicians.

UCSB – The campus decided it would have a devoted council meeting to discuss all of the issues it should be addressing in terms of graduate students. It will be talking about graduate admissions for next year. Many of the overseas students will be delayed.

UCB - The campus decided on a one semester increase in time and on a P/NP for undergraduates, but did not change anything for graduate students. Attendance was added as a possibility in the academic performance metric. The campus also has a hiring freeze, but there were some exceptions.

UCI – There is a grad council meeting tomorrow to discuss the general structure under the assumption that their might be disruptions in the fall. There is lots of uncertainty and the campus might need to think of a different strategy. President Napolitano's letter talked about relaxing some of the requirements on things like timing of transcripts and it will need to be seen if this will impact graduate students.

UCR – Weekly meetings have taken place with the grad dean and with the Senate Chair. Communication channels have been very open. Student wellbeing and welfare is the big concern, especially with graduate students.

UCM – The campus approved satisfactory/unsatisfactory options. Students can petition up to three weeks after instruction. There is a discussion going on now about deferred matriculation. The campus also has been in intensive discussion about putting things online. The high amount of emergency meetings and votes have left people overwhelmed.

UCSC - The strike is ongoing but things are stabilizing a little bit. The campus is changing the mode of instruction for international students. There needs to be remote instruction and in-person modalities. There is concern about STEM students who are not making progress and concern that funds will be exhausted.

UCLA – The campus voted to allow satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading and allowed the removal of limits of leave they can take. Payment deadlines for spring were delayed. There is anxiety among undergraduates and about how S/U grading will impact applications to grad school. Also, funding for STEM students is something that is coming up.

VI. Vice Chair's Report – Vice Chair Amr El Abbadi

The Vice Chair said that most of what he had to report had already been covered. CoGD discussed many of the same issues. Grad Slam has been cancelled. The graduate deans are talking a lot about the GSR pay and whether research is being done.

VII. New Program Proposals

- A. Proposal to establish a Dual Master of Financial Engineering (MFE) – Asia Pacific with the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University (Master of Finance) [SSGPDP] on the Los Angeles campus – *Lead Reviewer LeRoy Westerling*
The original proposal did not have anything about diversity. The Lead Reviewer got back to them about that and they replied with a very thoughtful diversity plan. Two reviewers have been secured; one internal and one external. The proposers responded with an increased return-to-aid from three percent to five percent and linked this to some of their diversity goals and provided a modified budget. There is some clarification needed about the dual degree status on a UCLA campus.
- B. Proposal to establish a Masters in Development Engineering on the Berkeley campus [SSGPDP] -- *Lead Reviewer Linda Cohen*
The Lead Reviewer said that the proposal is an SSP that is aimed at early career engineers that want to apply their skills to poverty and development. There is no program like it within the system. She has a list of people to serve as reviewers.
- C. Proposal to establish a Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) dual degree with the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po) on the Los Angeles campus -- *Lead Reviewer Erith Jaffe-Berg*
Three reviewers have been secured but they need more than two weeks because of COVID-19. It was agreed that they could take more time for their review and still be compensated.
- D. Proposal to establish a Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) on the Los Angeles campus [SSGPDP] -- *Lead Reviewer Don Smith*
The Lead Reviewer is working on getting reviewers for this proposal.
- E. Proposal to establish a Master of Engineering (MEng) on the Los Angeles campus [SSGPDP] -- *Lead Reviewer Amr El Abbadi*
The Lead Reviewer has secured three reviewers for this proposal.
- F. UC Irvine School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Proposal Review – *Lead Reviewer Ramesh Balasubramaniam*
UCI is in a bit of a time crunch and want the school and Pharm D proposal approved in time for the fall for a number of reasons. The Lead Reviewer has sent out eight requests for reviews and has gotten only one acceptance. The Lead Reviewer asked that the UCI grad council share its reviews with him so he can start looking at them.
- G. Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Business Analytics on the Riverside campus [SSGPDP]

-- *Lead Reviewer Andrea Kasko*

The proposal has a 10 percent return-to-aid and a diversity statement. The Lead Reviewer has three reviewers secured.

VIII. Transfers, Name Changes, Consolidations, and Discontinuances

All program proposals are posted to [CCGA's SharePoint Site](#)

- A. Proposal to Discontinue the MA and PhD in Latin American Studies and disestablish of the graduate group on the Berkeley campus

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

IX. Campus Updates