



## COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

### Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

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

#### 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 James Bisley*

Chair Bisley reported that since the last CCGA meeting, there had been a special Assembly meeting, three Council meetings, and a budget meeting. At the budget meeting, there was a sign of good news. UC is heading for an eight percent cut this coming year, and the eight percent had been calculated to include debt service, however, the same did not apply to CSU. The CFO went to Sacramento, and it sounds like he has convinced the state to make it consistent with the CSU arrangement, so the eight percent cut will be a little smaller than originally calculated. The legislative leadership in Sacramento really wants to support the University; there is a chance they will try to reduce the eight percent cut further. At the APC meeting, the Provost spoke very strongly about deferring to the Senate regarding faculty evaluations given the upcoming budget decimations.

At Council, it was announced that the Senate has formed a new group, UCAD (the University Adaptation to Disruptions); administration will be providing data and information as needed. Deputy Provost Lee talked about the updates on the hiring freeze. The campuses have been given some autonomy in implementing the freeze as they see fit. Council was also briefed about the removal of the stand-alone diversity statements and was given an FAQ. What was less clear was how references to diversity work will be incorporated with promotions and merit advances; hopefully, there will be guidelines soon. Council has issued a Statement in defense of the University, which was sent to the President. [https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/\\_files/reports/academic-council-statement-defense-of-university-april-2025.pdf](https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/academic-council-statement-defense-of-university-april-2025.pdf) Relatedly, the Provost is asking for ways for UC to help students who have lost their visas. Finally, the Chair noted that a member of Council will be stepping down after publicly quoting President Drake regarding

something that was shared in executive session. Because of this action, senior leadership has curtailed its communication with the Senate; this has profoundly affected shared governance.

### **III. Council of Graduate Deans' Report**

*Dean Peter Biehl, UCSC*

Dean Biehl praised Student Representative Ryan Manriquez for his message at the recent Regents' meeting. The Dean said that Mr. Manriquez' "passion, conviction, and clarity of thought" were a testament to his vision for the University. Separately, the Dean remarked that UC's dire financial straits resulted in the cancellation of the in-person spring meeting of the graduate divisions and deans at UCSC. However, the deans met over Zoom and incorporated members of UCORP. There was a meeting on March 19 that was focused on graduate admissions. So far, no offers have been rescinded but the budget upheaval and the contraction of the marketplace for PhDs is so extreme that some campuses have put mitigation efforts in place to defer applicants until next year. Secondary offer letters included contingency language crafted by UC Legal. Other universities are having to pursue similar courses of action. Furthermore, UC has seen an 11 percent drop in undergraduate and graduate international student enrollment. The graduate deans discussed an extension of the ASE time limit to 21 quarters so that students have some flexibility in this time of uncertain funding.

Members had questions for Dean Biehl and there was discussion.

### **IV. Consultation with the Provost**

Provost Newman discussed the current state of the University and the stressors being placed upon it. She reminded members to study the report of the workgroup on the Future of Graduate Education and to provide feedback (and encourage others to do so).

Members had questions for the Provost and there was discussion.

### **V. Variance Request**

Chair Bisley said that UCRJ had looked at a request from UCLA on how to handle Incomplete grades. UCLA proposed that graduate students have almost a year to make up the work and that undergraduates have until the end of the next term. Professor Thames (UCLA) added that this question was originally raised by students who requested that the I grade be removed from their transcripts once the work was completed. Students felt that retaining the I could block opportunities for future scholarship.

The committee agreed that the Incomplete grade should not live permanently on a transcript by way of a footnote after a letter grade is issued, and will write a letter to Council to that effect.

## **VI. Updates from Special Workgroups**

### **A. Substantive Change**

*Tonya Williams Bradford (UCI)*

*Wayne Steward (UCSF)*

Professor Williams Bradford noted that WSCUC has a definition of what constitutes substantive change. She and Professor Steward looked at that and at practices at other institutions to identify four categories of change that could trigger systemwide review. If two or more are true of a program, then it would need to come to CCGA. She added that programs that are reviewed every 10 years should be compared against the most recent program review, and that some exceptions need to be allowed related to accreditation bodies. Also, in situations such as Covid, where changes need to be made in response to a crisis, the changes would remain at the division level. Professor Steward added that the goal was to create criteria that were easy to understand and follow. Analyst Procello said he had just attended a meeting of WSCUC, and encouraged CCGA to share this guidance (once finalized) with their substantive change leads as soon as possible.

Members had questions related to transitioning programs to online and about incremental, serial changes that happen over time.

Professors Williams Bradford and Steward will discuss the committee's input and bring this item back for consideration in May.

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

*Steven W. Cheung, Academic Senate Chair*

*Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Senate Vice Chair*

Academic Senate Chair Cheung reported that Professor Susannah Scott (UCSB) was nominated for vice chair elect for the systemwide Senate. At Council, there was an approval of BOARS to accommodate expectations on how it would consult with K-12. The Chair reiterated the importance of confidentiality, particularly related to materials discussed in executive session. He is working to repair relationships with the President and the Provost which were severely damaged by a breach of confidentiality by a member of Council to the press. Faculty discipline continues to be a matter of interest for the Regents. A joint Senate/administration workgroup on faculty discipline and procedures has sent a report to the Provost, and there are several pieces she would like the group to explore further. It is likely that most P&T cases will remain at the campus, but if the campuses have difficulty assembling a committee, the case may be sent a systemwide committee. There has also been discussion about shortening the investigation phase and the creation of a case monitoring system, which is very - and likely prohibitively - expensive. The issue of simultaneous merit and disciplinary actions will be handled in the fall.

Chair Cheung went on to discuss international student visa cancellations. The Senate has made an inquiry to administration as to whether students can be put on indefinite hold or temporary withdrawal but still retain their status as a UC student. In turn, the administration tasked the Senate with developing a system that would enable students to complete requirements for their degrees via remote instruction. At the March Regents'

meeting and the President announced a hiring freeze and said that the University's values have not changed. At the same meeting, the Regents directed President Drake - who directed Provost Newman - to eliminate the use of diversity statements in hiring. However, the APM still allows for recognition of DEI efforts. In the March closed session, Vice President Rubin proposed the vision for the UCR clinical enterprise. Many Regents recognized the need, but were concerned about financial sustainability. The Senate is standing up a new task force, UCAD, which has the following goal and four topic areas:

**Task Force Charge Goal**

The Task Force will conduct relevant analyses and align its planning efforts with UC's longstanding commitment to access, inclusivity, and excellence. The focus will be on assessing current serious threats and developing viable response options across multiple scenarios in each of the following four priority areas:

1. Restructuring of academic programs,
2. Resizing of programs and the workforce,
3. Recalibration of growth objectives, and
4. Realignment of funding sources with mission activities

Vice Chair Palazoglu added that the task force consists of several members of Council and will invite members of the administration to consult on specific items. The group will be meeting weekly and plans to put together a website for information and updates.

There was a special meeting of Assembly to address a petition from Davis to move the effective date of salary adjustments for administrators at the Dean level and above to October first, the same date as it is for the regular faculty. After spirited discussion the motion was voted on, and was defeated. There was also discussion about the common calendar and members were asked to look at the study and provide feedback through the online portal. UCSF memorials for extending Senate membership to clinical faculty failed in all nine divisions.

The Senate Chair finished his remarks by updating the committee on the ongoing senior leadership searches. The new president should be announced at the May Regents' meeting. The Provost made an offer in advance of the hiring freeze for the candidate for vice provost job. The Santa Barbara and Riverside chancellors should be hired before the President retires in June.

Members had questions for the Academic Senate leadership.

**VIII. Announcements from Academic Affairs**

*Pamela Jennings, Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Studies*

*Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst*

Associate Vice Provost Jennings remarked that much of what she is working on had already been covered in the meeting. Her office recently funded four UC-HSI grants and also confirmed the nominations for the pre-professoriate fellows awards. Reviews are underway for the UC-HBCU awards. Grad Slam is April 29 and will be held in Sacramento this year. President Drake will emcee and this year the event will have a panel entitled Keeping California a World Leader, which will be moderated by Vice President Gullatt.

Analyst Procello shared that he had recently attended a meeting of WSCUC and that accreditors were attacked during the Trump campaign and are expecting more such actions. It is anticipated that more decision-making power will be going to the states, and more accrediting agencies will be allowed onto the playing field. The University may need to weigh the value of its accreditation.

## **IX. New Program Proposals**

- A. Proposal for a Master of Public Administration from the Irvine Division [SSGPDP]

Lead Reviewer: Wayne Steward

The Lead Reviewer reported that he had received three reviews plus the UCPB review. He will be reaching out to the proposers with the concerns that have been raised in the reviews while continuing to secure a fourth reviewer.

- B. Proposal for an Online Master's in Preventative Veterinary Medicine and One Health from the Davis Division [SSGPDP]

Lead Reviewer: Tonya Williams Bradford

The Lead Reviewer noted that the UCPB review is not very favorable, and she has one review in. She hopes to have all reviews in by the May meeting.

- C. Proposal for a Master of Global Public Affairs from the Los Angeles Division [PDST]

Lead Reviewer: Sutanu Sarkar

The Lead Reviewer is working to secure internal and external reviewers.

- D. Proposal for a PhD in Health, Society, and Behavior from the Irvine Division

**Action Taken: Sarita See was assigned as Lead Reviewer.**

- E. Proposal for a Master of Applied Artificial Intelligence for Science from the Irvine Division [SSGPDP]

**Action Taken: Ilan Adler was assigned as Lead Reviewer.**

## **X. Transfers, Name Changes, Consolidations, and Discontinuances**

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

- A. Proposal for a Simple Name Change from the Department of Music, to the Department of Music Performance, Education, and Composition from the Los Angeles Division

**Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-2.**

- B. Proposal to Transfer the PhD in Performance Studies to the Department of Theater Dance and Performance Studies and Disestablish the Graduate Group in Performance Studies from the Berkeley Campus

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

**XI. Vice Chair's Report**

*Vice Chair Partho Ghosh*

The Vice Chair remarked that Dean Biehl had already covered the CoGD meeting. Vice Chair Ghosh also attended the MRU bioengineering meeting, which did not go well. The proposers had not prepared for the questions. The committee sent them away with questions for next time.

**XII. Systemwide Information and Items Under Systemwide Review**

- A. Senate Chair Cheung's Remarks to the Board of Regents
- B. Community Input on Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report
- C. Systemwide Review of Proposed New Presidential Policy on High-Containment Research
- F. Proposed Revisions to Academic Personnel Manual (APM) Section 500, Recruitment P
- G. Proposed Revisions to APM 360 (Appointment and Promotion, Librarian Series) PDF

**XIII. Campus and Student Reports**

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

**XIV. New Business**

The committee discussed the issue of student visas being revoked and enabling students to complete their work remotely if needed. Dean Biehl stated that the University is working on reinstatement of the visas, but students are advised to get the counsel of their international lawyers. Chair Bisley added that having a visa revoked does not automatically unenroll a student. Student Representative Manriquez voiced concern about ICE agents being on campus. Members weighed in with questions and thoughts regarding the maintenance of academic standards, methods of remote learning, and residency requirements.

**XV. Executive Session**

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.

The committee adjourned at 3:33 p.m.