



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Notice of Meeting

Wednesday, May 7, 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), Steven Cheung, Ahmet Palazoglu, Todd Greenspan, 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 10-0-0.

II. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Steven W. Cheung, Academic Senate Chair

Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Senate Vice Chair

The Senate Chair reported that the UCOP budget is down 8-10 percent. That aside, the University has a new president, JB Milliken, who will start the role on August 1. The Chair remarked that this had been a very secretive search, and there was a lot of anxiety about the candidates. Council will meet with Mr. Milliken after he starts. The transition plan is for him to come to the committee orientation in the fall. Relatedly, the AAVP position has been filled, and the successful candidate will be starting in June. Professor Susannah Scott (UCSB) has been confirmed as incoming vice chair for the Senate. She was instrumental in creating the Report on the Future of Graduate Education. Assembly looked at Area H about Ethnic Studies; it was a very vigorous debate. That initiative, which has been five years in its making, failed to pass.

Council featured a discussion about the University's budget challenges. Chair Cheung said that the state legislature is quite sympathetic to UC. The best that the University can hope for is something less than an eight percent cut. There are considerable stresses on the state budget related to the fires in Los Angeles and California tax projections. The CFO is pausing the 0.5 increment increase to UCRP, which will lengthen the full funding of the program. Conversely, market returns for UC investments have been at (or better than) average. Council also took up the matter of clinicians and their access to shared governance. Chair Cheung created a proposal regarding the creation of a special committee on clinicians.

The May Regents' meeting focused in part on faculty discipline. The Regents have been very hands-on with regard to expressive activities and charged UCOP and the Senate with

looking at the entire P&T timeline, from preliminary investigation to discipline by the chancellor. A workgroup has been studying the issue and has adopted the timelines for SVSH, with the understanding that there are extensions for good cause. If the Regents approve then the sanctioning guidelines, the proposal will come to the Senate for an expedited 30-day review.

Chair Cheung reported that UC had about 159 cancellations of graduate and undergraduate international students. Of these, 157 were restored. He shared that the President has put money into a fund to secure a top immigration law firm to handle cases that are not resolved.

Members had questions and there was discussion.

III. Chair's Report

Chair James Bisley

The Chair reported that he attended a budget meeting, and two questions were put forth: how is UC going to cope with cuts, and how can it minimize them. He remarked that the state legislature is on the side of the University, but that the UC budget is still likely to get an eight percent cut. The tuition stability plan- which is intended to keep tuition flat for cohorts of students - is being renegotiated this year. It has a cap of five percent that might be raised to six percent. Undergraduate return-to-aid should be at 33 percent; it was at 27 percent, so for a few years it was raised to 45% and the plan is to drop it to 35 percent for a few more years. Return-to-aid for non-resident students is twenty percent, and can only be used for non-resident students. If the non-residents do not exhaust the funds, they are given out as merit-based scholarships. There is an aim to allow it to go to residents when the need arises. There is no talk about furloughs now. In Council, President Drake said that the NIH attestations are a top priority for legal counsel and that guidance should be coming out soon. Relatedly, a new president has been selected for the University, JB Milliken. Chair Bisley remarked that Mr. Milliken comes with a great deal of experience from the University of Texas.

IV. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Partho Ghosh

The Vice Chair reported that he went to one labor relations meeting and the CoGD meeting. He deferred to Dean Biehl for the CoGD report. Vice Chair Ghosh also informed the group that he will serve as the CCGA chair next year.

V. Council of Graduate Deans' Report

Dean Peter Biehl, UCSC

Dean Biehl shared that there is a lot of fear on the campuses due to the EOs coming out of Washington, DC. He said that there was no clarity regarding the status of visas for international students. Admissions letters for all students had to include contingency language related to funding. The Dean reported that while there was a dip in master's student enrollment, there is an increase in cohort size for doctoral students. He reported

that the graduate deans are working on a short paper documenting how graduate studies fuel innovation in California, nationally, and internationally.

VI. Announcements from Academic Affairs

Pamela Jennings, AVP for Graduate Studies

Todd Greenspan, Exec. Advisor, Academic Planning and Policy

Carmen Corona, Dir. of Academic Planning and Policy

Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst

Director Corona stated that the OPM draft policy is completed; it has been reviewed by the Policy Advisory Committee and APC. Her office is now working with UC Legal to create incentive language and to clarify the permissibility of tuition-sharing agreements. The document will go out for a 90-day comment period, with the intention of having final approval by October and a final policy in place before the end of the calendar year.

Analyst Procello discussed the recent EO regarding accreditation. He noted that the Senate might want to issue a statement in support of WSCUC.

Executive Advisor Greenspan noted that he (along with others) recently had a conversation with WSCUC, and that most UC campuses already have authorization for distance education. If more than 50 percent of a program is being delivered remotely, it needs substantive change approval. His office is drafting a memo about this that the Provost will send out. The four-year enrollment plans show a 6000 FTE undergraduate growth, with graduate enrollment remaining largely flat. He observed that the University is looking for ways to generate more FTE without bringing more students onto campus.

Associate Vice Provost Jennings told the committee that the UC-HBCU review is currently underway. She seconded Dean Biehl's suggestion that the University must work to communicate the value of graduate education to the state and the nation. She shared that the Grad Slam videos will be posted online shortly. A UCSF student won the competition this year, with a Merced student taking home The People's Choice Award.

Members had questions and there was discussion.

VII. Updates from Special Workgroups

A. Substantive Change

Tonya Williams Bradford, UCI

Wayne Steward, UCSF

Professors Steward and Williams Bradford went over their edits to the Substantive Change guidance.

Action Taken: The guidance was approved for inclusion in the Handbook 12-0-0.

VIII. Variance Requirement for SR 900 and 902

This item was tabled until October 2025.

IX. Compendium Question from UCSC

Chad Saltikov, UCSC

Professor Saltikov explained the question from the Santa Cruz division and the interpretation placed on the Compendium verbiage by UCSC. Chair Bisley replied that the item needed to come to CCGA for review.

X. New Program Proposals

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

Lead Reviewer: *Wayne Steward*

The Lead Reviewer expressed difficulty in securing a fourth reviewer. He noted that most of the comments had been benign, but one is more substantive. The Lead Reviewer will send the comments to the other two reviewers and get their feedback.

- 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 UCPB had found the proposal to be very unsatisfactory. It seems that the campus is taking a state-supported program and digitizing it to make it and SSGPDP. The proposers argue that it is a high-value program, and many people cannot move to Davis to take the in-person program. The Lead Reviewer specified that there are six serious concerns about the program and six weaknesses. She detailed those for the group.

Action Taken: *The proposal was rejected with the option to resubmit with a revised proposal. 11-0-1*

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

Lead Reviewer: *Sutanu Sarkar*

The Lead Reviewer reported that he had secured four reviewers. All four acknowledged that it this was an innovative proposal, but two found the market expectations to be optimistic. Overall, there is academically wrong with the proposal, but the market is saturated. The Lead Reviewer will talk with the proposers regarding theses concerns and will report back in June.

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

Lead Reviewer: *Sarita See*

The Lead Reviewer has two reviewers secured and waiting on two more.

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

Lead Reviewer: *Ilan Adler*

The Lead Reviewer has received two reports and will report back in June.

- F. Proposal for an *En Route* MS in Environmental Science and Management from the Santa Barbara Division

Action Taken: *Chad Saltikov was assigned as Lead Reviewer.*

XI. Transfers, Name Changes, Consolidations, and Discontinuances

- A. Proposal to Change the Name of the College of Engineering to the Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering from the Santa Barbara Division

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

XII. UCAD Update and Recommendations for Prioritization

The Chair discussed UCAD and the UC's plans to cope with the disruptions arising from Washington, DC. Members had thoughts, and there was considerable discussion.

XIII. Campus Approaches for the Report on the Future of Graduate Education

The Chair asked the committee to discuss if and how the report is being handled on their campuses. Members weighed in, with many wondering if the report was still "valid" in the wake of actions from the new federal administration.

XIV. Campus and Student Reports

Members reported on issues related to graduate affairs from their divisions.

XV. New Business

There was no new business.

XVI. Executive Session

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.

The committee adjourned at 4:20 p.m.