



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting

October 2, 2024

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), Hyle Park (Alternate, UCR) Wayne Steward (UCSF), Sutanu Sarkar (UCSD), Alex Simms (UCSB), Chad Saltikov (UCSC), Steven Cheung, Todd Greenspan, Pamela Jennings, Chris Procello, Peter Biehl (CoGD), and Fredye Harms (analyst)

I. Approval of the Agenda

Action Taken: *The agenda was approved 11-0-0.*

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chair James Bisley

The Chair welcomed members to CCGA and held a round of introductions.

III. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Steven W. Cheung, Academic Senate Chair

Academic Senate Chair Cheung introduced himself and explained that the Senate Vice Chair was in Turkey, but that he would be attending the meetings going forward.

Chair Cheung remarked that the year was already off to a busy start, and he wanted to update the committee on several topics. He started with the Regents and their new chair, Janet Reilly. He said that she is very interested in expanding access to UC quality care, particularly in the Inland Empire and Central Valley. He and the Vice Chair attended a retreat with the Regents, where much of the discussion centered on the growth of UC Health, which now accounts for over 50 percent of the University's operating budget. He observed that there is some risk associated with the Health Services growth, particularly in light of the upcoming presidential election. At the Board meeting, the Regents welcomed June Yu as Vice President of the National Laboratories. In other employment news, there were a number of raises for senior managers, which resulted in some discomfort regarding the formulation of compensation indices. Chair Cheung shared that there was an important Regents' item related to [AB 481](#), which deals with funding and use of military equipment on the campuses. This topic resulted in considerable activity and protest which put an end to discussion. The Chair remarked that he had asked UCFW and the division chairs to

agendize this issue at their meetings and that the police chiefs at the campuses should be able to provide meaningful answers.

Chair Cheung told the committee about several important personnel changes happening within the University. President Drake is stepping down in the summer, and Chair Cheung will head the search's Academic Advisory Committee, which will consist of him and one representative from each campus. Relatedly, Chancellor Yang (UCSB) is retreating from the chancellorship and returning to the faculty, and Chancellor Wilcox (UCR) is retiring. Chair Cheung stated that faculty will be asked to serve on the search committees for these positions. The Davis Chancellor is undergoing review this year. At UCOP, the Office of Academic Personnel and Programs has been split into two interactive units – one on labor and one on personnel. Deputy Provost Amy Lee will head the personnel office, and applications are currently being accepted for the labor position.

The Chair remarked that the Senate was participating in a number of workgroups this year: one on fully online undergraduate degrees, one on aligning all the campuses to the semester system, and one on artificial intelligence. The workgroup on the Future of Graduate Education is concluding its work and will have a report out shortly. In addition, there is a long-delayed study of total remuneration planned.

Chair Cheung noted that the state legislature has been very interested in campus climate relative to the protests that have taken place in response to the conflict in the Middle East. It has withheld \$25M contingent upon a series of performance areas the University needs to fulfill. The Campus Climate Initiative calls for each campus to develop its own plan, which will be forwarded to UCOP. He noted that there is some trepidation in the UC community about the October 7 anniversary and what activities may ensue on the campuses.

Members had questions for the Senate Chair and there was discussion.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair James Bisley

Chair Bisley talked briefly about CCGA and how the committee meeting typically operates.

The Chair reviewed actions and discussions that had taken place at Academic Council. He remarked that the administration is taking the graduate student contract negotiations more seriously this year and has assembled a resource group of faculty to inform their position and give them a better understanding of issues that arise from the student/employee dynamic. The Chair touched on the APC workgroup on the Future of Graduate Education and said that Provost Newman intends to do a number of faculty surveys, one of which will be about this report. While he noted that survey returns are generally low, Chair Bisley asked members to encourage their campus colleagues to participate in them. The state of the University budget was also discussed at Council. Six months ago, the financial situation looked grim, however additional funding came through in the final budget. Next year there will be cuts, but if the economy continues to improve, they may not be as drastic as originally anticipated.

The other meeting the Chair attended was APC, which is an administrative/Senate body led by the Provost. This year it will be looking at minor revisions to the Compendium and the task of getting all of the campuses (with the exception of UCSF) onto the semester system, which largely has been met with resistance by the faculty. Members discussed the merits and demerits of the proposed conversion at length. APC also discussed the state auditor's report on OPMs (Online Program Management). The auditor found no issue with the University with regard to these, but CCGA should be aware of them.

V. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Partho Ghosh

Vice Chair Ghosh reported that the Council of Graduate Deans discussed UC Online, and a program called Canvas Trust which enables students to participate in on-line courses at campuses other than their own using a Canvas account from their own campus. The Vice Chair also discussed the changes in graduate school application fees. Some campuses are considering raising them, but this is getting pushback. He also noted that some campuses are making a transition from the term "Academic Probation" to "Academic Notice."

VI. Council of Graduate Deans' Report

Dean Peter Biehl, UCSC

Dean Biehl observed that for the past two to three years, much of the focus of the graduate deans has been on graduate employment and not graduate education. He said that the Council agreed to keep its traditional CoGD 90-minute meeting and then have a separate monthly meeting with labor relations and academic personnel. These meetings have helped the deans explain the student/faculty relationship to the administration. He noted that there are several interim graduate deans at this point. He said that CoGD will be meeting in-person at UCOP on November 21 and will have a spring meeting at UCSC. He noted that the graduate deans are very interested in getting the message of graduate education heard and understood in Sacramento and in Washington, D.C. Dean Biehl explained graduate application fees are being used by some graduate divisions for operations and that, given budget hardships, some have been thinking about raising them. He said UCs application fees are much higher than our competitors and he thinks the University should not raise them more, but that it does need to think about how it will finance its graduate divisions while keeping in mind cohort sizes, diversity, time-to-degree, and student success. He mentioned the importance of international graduate students in the educational experience of UC undergraduates.

Members had questions for Dean Biehl, and there was discussion.

VII. Announcements from Academic Affairs

Pamela Jennings, Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Studies

Todd Greenspan, Executive Advisor, Academic Planning and Policy

Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst

AVP Jennings told the committee about Growing our Own, which was launched by the EVCs in 2021 and is designed to weave together the three higher education segments in order to meet the state's workforce needs and diversify the professoriate in California. Funding,

however, has been a challenge. She also discussed the role of her office within the University and in supporting the success of graduate students. The Associate Vice Provost mentioned Grad Slam and encouraged members to watch the Regents' meeting video that featured presentations by students. She explained the UC HSI Doctoral Diversity Initiative and SIEML (the Summer Institute for Emerging Managers and Leaders). She also informed the group that a new two-year fellowship that will be introduced this fall.

AVP Jennings explained that language programs have been cut back within the UC system and nationally; however, there remains a need for UC students to study and learn foreign languages as part of their UC degree programs. Many UC graduate students need to achieve a high level of language proficiency in order to work with primary-source documents as part of their studies. Seven UC campuses currently offer language courses online that are eligible for cross-campus enrollment through an enrollment platform developed by UC Online. This language catalog and enrollment vehicle has been used successfully by UC undergraduates, but now discussions are underway to expand this service to graduate students as well.

Analyst Procello explained that at the beginning of the summer, the campuses submit their Five-Year Planning Perspectives, which list anticipated actions around their programs. However, this year, the Perspectives are being combined with California EDD data so that the University can explore the connection between degree programs and labor market needs. Another topic he addressed was AB 656, which allows the CSUs to grant doctorates. He thanked the committee for their work last year to help define the criteria by which these programs would be evaluated by UC for duplication. He closed his remarks by discussing the first-level revisions of the Compendium, which will be reviewed by APC.

Executive Advisor Greenspan shared slides illustrating the status of state-supported graduate student enrollment with Master's and Health Sciences enrollment expected to grow and PhDs expected to decline. Despite the growth, the University is still far from meeting its compact goals with the governor. UC promised to grow graduate student enrollments by 2500 over four years. He also discussed the many workgroups that were coming out of APC, including one on the Online Program Manager.

VIII. Orientation to CCGA

Chair James Bisley

The Chair explained that he wanted to provide a deep understanding of what CCGA does and what the expectations are for those on the committee. He introduced and reviewed the CCGA Handbook, the Compendium, and the SharePoint site. He noted that the committee would be looking at three important topics this year in addition to program reviews. They were the "double counting" of units, the definition/threshold for "substantive" change, and the criteria for an *en route* degree. He discussed some of the issues that have arisen with TCDDs (transfers, consolidations, discontinuances, and disestablishment). He also noted that one or two CCGA members may be asked to participate in the review of MRUs (multi-campus research units) during the course of the year. Chair Bisley underscored that each member of the committee will be expected to lead at least one program review during the course of the year. He pointed out areas of the CCGA Handbook that would be helpful in

starting those reviews. He then went over the program review process handout. Members had some questions regarding the process, which were answered.

IX. New Program Proposals

- A. Proposal for a Master of Education Sciences with a Concentration in Learning Analytics from the Irvine Division
Lead Reviewer: Sarita See

The Lead Reviewer was not present but had reported via email that she had secured five reviewers. Four of them were positive about the program, however one cited some serious flaws in the proposal. She has sent those concerns to the proposers and will report back at the next meeting.

- B. Proposal for a Part-Time MS in Global Health Sciences from the San Francisco Division
Action Taken: Chad Saltikov was assigned as Lead Reviewer.
- C. Proposal for an MAS in Precision Medicine Therapeutics in Oncology from the San Diego Division [SSGPDP]
Action Taken: Eleonora Grandi was assigned as Lead Reviewer.
- D. Proposal for a Master of Urban Studies and Regional Planning from the San Diego Division [PDST]
Action Taken: John Abatzoglou was assigned as Lead Reviewer.
- E. Proposal for a PhD in Urban Studies and Planning from the San Diego Division
Action Taken: Alex Simms was assigned as Lead Reviewer.
- F. Proposal for an *en Route* MS from the PhD in Astronomy from the San Diego Division
Action Taken: Ilan Adler was assigned as Lead Reviewer.
- G. Proposal for an *en Route* MA in Logic and the Methodology of Science from the Berkeley Division
Action Taken: April Thames was assigned as Lead Reviewer.

X. Transfers, Name Changes, Consolidations, and Discontinuances

- A. Proposal for a Simple Name Change from the MAS in Clinical and Epidemiologic Research to the MS in Clinical and Epidemiological Research from the San Francisco Division

The Chair remarked that this proposal looks like a simple but may be a degree change. The analyst will reach out to the campus analyst to ask for reassurance the program includes a thesis or comprehensive exam that is done in a way that is typical for an MS degree.

- B. Proposal to Discontinue the PhD in Molecular Toxicology and Disestablish the Graduate Group in Molecular Toxicology from the Berkeley Division

Action Taken: The committee concurred with the campus action 10-0-1.

XI. Statement About Graduate Education

Chair James Bisley

The Chair explained that last year, CCGA put out a brief statement saying that faculty oversee graduate education which was endorsed by Council. Professor Scheibner (a member from the 2023-24 committee) wanted to expand that statement to give some background and definitively say that students are students first and employees second. The Chair suggested that CCGA perhaps work with the CoGD on the statement with the intent of getting it widely distributed to the campuses.

XII. Systemwide Information and Items Under Systemwide Review

- A. Report on the State of Shared Governance at the University of California 2023-24
- B. Senate Chair Cheung's Remarks to the Board of Regents
- C. Revisions to Presidential Policy on Externally Supplied Medications in UC Outpatient and Clinic Settings
- D. Proposed Program Attachments #3-7 to the Policy on Vaccination Programs
- E. Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 479 (CalGETC)
- F. Proposed Senate Regulation 627 (Posthumous Awarding of Degrees)

The committee analyst will draft a letter in support of this regulation.

XIII. Campus Reports

Members commented on issues from their divisions related to graduate education.

XIV. New Business

Professor Grandi raised a question related to international students taking leave for personal issues. Analyst Harms will reach out to the UCIE chair to get this topic on their agenda.

XV. Executive Session

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.

The Committee adjourned at 3:25.

Minutes prepared by Fredye Harms, Committee Analyst

Attest: James Bisley, Committee Chair