

## COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

**Minutes of Meeting**

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

**I. Approval of the Agenda**

**Action Taken: The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed 12-0-0.**

**II. Chair's Report - Chair Amr El Abbadi**

The Chair said he has been at various meetings regarding the curtailment plan. The Council sent a letter saying they were not supportive. There has been no federal plan to support the states. There was criticism of the nature of a curtailment compared to a furlough. It is not clear how specific groups are affected by this. The Chair expressed concern for graduate students and post docs. It isn't clear if the amount of savings addressed by the curtailment justifies it.

**III. Vice Chair's Report – Vice Chair Andrea Kasko**

The Vice Chair went to UCACC and had the following report. A lot of UC students are currently residing in China and are having difficulty in terms of accessing academic content. According to Chinese law, UC is required to find a VPN for the students that is OK with the Chinese government. Each UC location is tasked with figuring it out; there is not a systemwide solution at this point. Most private VPN services are not allowable under Chinese law. The VPN that is allowable could be costing students upwards of \$170 a month to access content. There are only 3 VPN services that are approved by the Chinese government.

CoGD – There were some issues with the union about making sure offers that were made to international students were fulfilled. If someone was promised an appointment for a whole year, then the University needed to make good on it. The UAW had made some complaints about that. If funding is tied to instruction then the UAW thinks it is their purview instead of academic purview. NRST is not tied to employment, so there should not be an issue with that. There were discussions about Prop 16 and how it could impact graduate admissions if it passes. CoGD is in discussion with the President and the Provost tomorrow. The issues with international students seem to be dominating.

**IV. Council of Graduate Deans Report – Dean Quentin Williams**

One of the things that CoGD is concerned with is labor relations. There were two unfair labor practices filed – one by the union and one by UC against the union. There might be some engagement of the UAW with the wildcat strike in violation of their contract. There is active negotiation taking place between the UAW and the University. The CoGD is meeting with the President and Provost tomorrow and the CoGD is hoping that President Drake will be more aware of the graduate enterprise than President Napolitano was. Other things they are bringing up is how is UCOP going to help with things like graduate housing. Regarding the VPN issue, the graduate deans encouraged the faculty to share their syllabi early on so that the international students could assess the risk and liability attached to a particular course curriculum. The CoGD has been consulting with UC Legal about guidance with employees working overseas. There is a strong suggestion that they work in the US just because there are so many logistic difficulties to working internationally. The University is

keeping track of admissions deferrals and student completions; it is going to be a very complicated year.

**V. Student Report** – Valeria Orue and Doreen Joseph

Student representative Orue said that her campus had somebody in their general council meeting racially Zoom bombed and it had to be someone that was on the listserv. This was followed by a “laugh out loud” comment. UCR has decided to incorporate diversity training and bring in outside speakers. She expressed satisfaction with the he GSAs this year.

Student Representative Joseph introduced herself. (This was her first meeting with CCGA.) She expressed interest in learning more at the campus and systemwide level.

**VI. Announcements from Academic Affairs**

Pamela Jennings, Executive Director of Graduate Studies

Todd Greenspan, Director of Academic Planning

Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst

Executive Director Jennings had a comment related to the VPN firewall issue: there has been engagement systemwide from the chief information officer s to work on that issue. Also there are new restrictions put out by the Department of Homeland Security that would set a time that students could stay. UC did have a formal response in the comment period that was signed by the President and all the Chancellors. FGR have been doing an excellent job. She said she is working with IRAP to launch the graduate student experience survey. This will allow for the demonstration of some longitudinal data. Her department is finalizing the addition of a new component of the HBCU/UC Initiative. They are adding a third small grant – a research component to see how they might better improve and advance inclusion in their departments. She also wanted to building on the conversation about mentorship.

Analyst Procello noted that he was just coming in off a three week leave and was catching up on work. He thanked the group for the diversity criteria that the committee put in place last year.

Director Greenspan said that enrollments are looking good for graduate programs. UC is about 1000 graduate students above fall 2019. The doctoral program enrollments are almost all up continuing doctoral students are up. There are some declines in new nonresidents. At the undergraduate level resident enrollment is up but nonresident is down a few percent. President Drake is very interested in graduate education and he is asking what the right proportion of graduate admissions is. He is interested in expanding graduate enrollment.

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

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Chair

Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Vice Chair

The Council Chair said that the Council has been reviewing the curtailment proposal from the President that has to do with the COVID situation. There was a very quick turnaround. Council went over all of the comments and was able to see a pretty clear pattern of a lack of clarity in the proposal. She and the Vice Chair discussed their concerns with the President and the Provost and they were very forthright in trying to address them.

There is an openness in research policy that is being discussed in some committees. These are policies in response to federal regulations. There are a number of researchers at the university that get

grants from DOD and DOE, etc., and many of these grants involve graduate students. There is going to be a range of responses from the Senate for this.

There is also a review coming around soon related to ILTI, which is the learning and technology initiative. There was a review of the program that was done that is now being circulated to the Senate for review. ILTI is being reformed “as we speak,” as the University is working with remote instruction.

A task force is going to be developed through UCOPE which will look at the English language writing requirement for incoming freshmen.

The Vice Chair said that he and the Chair had been invited to the President’s Global Climate Leadership Council (GCLC). It is a fairly widespread committee that was put in place by President Napolitano to press for carbon neutrality by 2025. They went last week we talked a little bit about the Senate initiative. There was discussion if carbon offsets were a “shell game.” There was discussion about sharpening the policy goals beyond carbon neutrality to decarbonization. The Chair and Vice Chair have been trying to push this from the committees and divisions to provide input on how they can they can deal with the climate crisis. They have distributed the UCSD Climate Crisis Taskforce Report to aid the discussion.

The Chair said that the GCLC has two subgroups that are involved with education. These groups are pretty interesting but nothing was discussed about graduate students. But graduate students are going to play a lot of leadership roles in this work. There is a center in Davis that is working on climate justice and another is a center which is related to the health centers. What is interesting in both of these regards is a broadening of the definition of who is involved. There are many other specialties beyond the STEM scientists who are integral to dealing with this crisis.

Members had questions and there was discussion.

## **VIII. New Program Proposals**

- A. Proposal to establish a Master of Science in Health Informatics on the San Diego campus [SSGPDP]

- *Lead Reviewer Andrea Kasko*

This is a joint program that will be housed in the department of medicine. They are allowing for full and part time study and are hoping for a steady state enrollment of 33 students. Tuition is about \$51K. The Lead Reviewer has secured two reviewers so far and is still working on getting external reviewers.

- B. Proposal to establish a Master of Science in Computational Social Science on the San Diego campus [SSGPDP]

- *Lead Reviewer Erith Jaffe-Berg*

The Lead Reviewer has two letters coming in and is waiting on others. She expressed that it is difficult to find people.

- C. Proposal to establish an Online Master of Science in Drug Development and Product Management on the San Diego Campus [SSGPDP]

- *Lead Reviewer Arvind Rajaraman*

The Lead Reviewer has four reviewers secured but no reviews in yet.

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

- A. Proposal to establish the Department of European Languages and Transcultural Studies and disestablish French and Francophone Studies, Italian, and Germanic Languages

This proposal is the result of a lot of work. UCLA is trying to move into the future with languages. There were a number of small programs and it made sense to combine them. The committee recommends that grad council to pay extra attention to this in the next review cycle.

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

## **X. Openness in Research Policy**

*-Lourdes Demattos, Associate Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination*

Ms. Demattos said that her office is charged with writing research policies and providing guidance on policies. They are trying to capture an articulation of fundamental values that the University has held with regard to publication restrictions and citizenship restrictions in extramural rewards. There are various statements related to non-restriction throughout the University, but her office wants to put them together in a unified Presidential policy. Right now UC allows some exceptions on the publication restrictions. There are also some exceptions for citizenship restrictions. But overall the University stands by its commitment to non-discrimination. There are foreign influence concerns from Republicans and Democrats who are concerned about intellectual property being stolen. The University is receiving considerable push for a lot more of these restrictions and has been fighting against them. UC has a huge amount of DOD and DOE contracts, and people are concerned that the University is moving forward on accepting restricted work. Her office wanted to form a workgroup where these issues could be discussed. The committee had questions and discussion and it was decided that a volunteer for the workgroup would be selected at the December meeting.

## **XI. Dual and Joint Degrees Check In**

The Chair explained that there was a subgroup that discussed the dual degrees. There are lots of questions that need to be explored. In a dual degree at least half of the classes need to be in UC and no more than a quarter of the courses can be double counted. Santa Cruz had a very detailed analysis of dual degree programs. UCSC was trying to have a dual degree PhD program but it failed to get the necessary approvals. Does it make sense to parse out the difference between an MS or a professional degree and a PhD? How much of the research can be counted toward both the degrees? The institutions need to be on par. And the question of overlap really needs to be defined.

If a student is doing a dissertation, how much of that is counted towards each institution. If the PhD is disregarded, and focus is just placed on the Masters does it make sense to have two different degrees from two institutions. The burden is on the proposers to show that this is not just doing the same work twice. They also need to demonstrate how this will be advantageous to the student and the institution. Should there be a distinction between Plan I and Plan II? Should there be two separate theses? WASC does allow dual degrees with other countries. Should UC open up joint degrees to international partnerships? PhDs should be pushed toward joint degrees. There are lots of issues with the admission process. If any of the campuses have successful joint degree programs, members are asked to share them at the next meeting. The Chair asked Analyst Procello to put together a list of joint degrees that have existed and that are still operational.

## **XII. Social Justice and Climate Change Discussion**

The Chair mentioned that CCGA has a role in promoting diversity through the proposal approval process. Is there something else the committee can do? Given that there is a renegotiation of the police contract, it seems like there is some weight the Senate could bring to bear.

Executive Director Jennings observed that CCGA can perhaps push on other levers that affect the overall environment of graduate students. Mentoring is incredibly important and maybe CCGA can build on the changes that it made to APM 210. She cited the [Academic Planning Council Graduate Education Workgroup Report](#), and specifically page 8 – mentoring and anti-bias training-- maybe CCGA can prompt the Senate to take action. This is an area where UC is not a leader, and it can be.

Climate Change – There is a task force but there is no document as of yet. The Chair asked if anyone was involved with climate change. It is unclear what CCGA can do in terms of this issue. It seems like a broader UC and campus issue. The committee will wait until there is a document that comes out of the task force.

## **XIII. Campus Reports**

Berkeley – The campus has not had a graduate council meeting since the last CCGA meeting so it has nothing to report.

Davis – A proposal for DNP/Family Nurse Practitioner will be coming to CCGA soon.

Irvine – The campus had nothing to report; there are no proposals coming up immediately

Los Angeles – The campus is discussing a review of SSGPDPs and is trying to come up with a template to keep track of quality and revenue. There was also extensive discussion on the undergraduate online degree program proposal.

Merced – The campus is moving forward with a proposal for a new School of Management and Complex Systems. The administration has scared the graduate chairs by asking how many graduate students can you afford to have. This leads to concern from interdisciplinary groups. Senate leadership at Merced has concerns about the shared governance process.

Riverside – The campus had some problems with students in China trying to get online – it was very complicated situation. They have found some work-arounds.

UCSD – The campus had nothing to report.

UCSF – The campus has programs in the pipeline, there are proposals for masters & grad certificate programs in health data sciences that are getting a few further refinements before coming to CCGA.

UCSB – The campus created guidelines for mentoring grad students, and they are working on how to get that information out. There is a proposal coming to the committee soon. There is some discussion about opening up campus to grad classes in winter.

UCSC – The member was not present.

#### **XIV. For Systemwide Review**

##### **A. The Report of the Academic Council Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force**

There are three policies that are being proposed. One of them more or less prohibits full online degrees. One supports completely online but there needs to be a campus experience in labs or other ways. The third policy is instruction only and the student is off campus completely.

Members shared the discussion that had taken place at their campuses. Some campuses rejected the notion of any of the three options and emphasized the intrinsic value of in-person education. Other campuses felt that completely online degrees should be allowed at the undergraduate level since they are allowed at the graduate level. Concerns were also expressed about the inequities in access to the internet and the need for tech support. Members agreed that there was a tremendous difference between synchronous and asynchronous classes in terms of success in online education. In the end, it was decided that the Chair and member Erith Jaffe-Berg would put together some language in response and share it with the committee.

The committee adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Minutes taken by Analyst Fredye Harms.

Attest: Amr El Abbadi, Chair