



## COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

### Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

#### I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

The agenda and minutes were approved 8-0-0.

#### II. Chair's Report

*Chair Partho Ghosh*

Chair Ghosh informed the group that Council met on the 17<sup>th</sup> and all of the CSU recommendations were put forward. They were accepted with a vote of 17-1. The discussion raised a lot of questions that were similar to those CCGA had raised. The contract negotiations are still ongoing. The PFP has been reinstated by the President.

The Chair said he also went to three UCAD meetings and two UCAD Plus meetings. From these, he reported that UC Health is now 50 percent of the revenue for UC. The interest of the graduate UCAD Plus workgroup has now switched to gathering data for graduate deans and discussing how campuses are making decisions about time-to-degree. There is a question to OP about increasing graduate enrollment.

Members had some questions.

#### III. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

*Susannah Scott, Academic Senate Vice Chair*

Senate Vice Chair Scott explained that Chair Palazoglu was out.

Vice Chair Scott reviewed action from the December 17 Council meeting, which covered online program management and also featured endorsement of two messages from UCFW and another from the HCTF about providing gender-affirming care. UC's comparison to the Comp Eight showed some gains, but University faculty salaries are closer to those of faculty from public institutions rather than private universities. There was a statement from UCAADE about the PFP that the Council endorsed, the President reinstated the program the next day. The Regents met on the 18<sup>th</sup> and were delighted that the lawsuit that was pursued by the AAUP was successful and they were also updated on the DOJ letter. UC has been willing to negotiate in good faith, however there have been no negotiations to date. The Regents also announced new Innovation Awards. There will be five (of at least \$20K each) and each campus will nominate and advance candidates.

The Regents meeting featured considerable discussion of the budget, and CFO Brostrom presented his financial report and budget request. There was also a lengthy review of Tuition Stability Plan; it was re-approved with a few small changes. Return-to-aid was reduced from 45 percent to 40 percent, so the student aid pool will grow a little more slowly. The President was in favor of the Plan, but students in public comment were not. The University endowment is doing very well - it is now \$210 B. Because of this, the retirement program is doing well. The Student Regents expressed frustration about the lack of student opportunities to be involved with decision-makers.

Vice Chair Scott summarized the other updates. Two bonds are being proposed that are of interest to UC. The University recently reached an agreement with the unions that avoided a strike. AFSCME is still in contract negotiations. UCAD has been considering feedback on the interim report and then the final report will go to UCAD Plus. She noted that there were no sections on graduate students and DEI in the report – that is being addressed. In addition, there will be some clarification about the purpose of the report.

Members had questions and there was discussion.

#### **IV. Vice Chair's Report**

*Vice Chair Ele Grandi*

Vice Chair Grandi said that the Faculty Advisory Committee had not discussed anything concerning at its last meeting. The CoGD met in-person for the whole day with several OP administrators, including the President, FGR, and Deputy Provost Amy Lee. There was a strong request from the deans to be kept within the communication loop. She noted that President Milliken said that the University needs to gain people's confidence because there is a general impression that higher education is "brainwashing" people. There was conversation about the PFPF and the deans closely questioned the process of deciding about its future. The Provost said it was only a financial decision, but that did not seem to resonate with the deans. The deans were interested in expanding the Degree Plus initiative which is currently in pilot on some campuses.

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

*Peter Biehl, UCSC*

Dean Biehl was unable to attend the meeting; he was in Washington. DC.

#### **VI. Announcements from Academic Affairs**

*Pamela Jennings, Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Studies*

*Todd Greenspan, Executive Advisor, Academic Planning and Policy*

*Carmen Corona, Director of Academic Planning and Policy*

*Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst*

AVP Jennings was in Washington, DC.

Analyst Procello updated the committee on Council's vote on the CSU proposals, which was in line with CCGA's recommendations. Director Corona added that President Milliken

is expecting to have an intersegmental meeting and he and the Provost have been briefed. The situation is delicate and UC wants to be respectful of CSU. The Director separately informed the group that the OPM policy is now interim, and it has a 90-day comment period.

Advisor Greenspan made a brief announcement about enrollment discussions.

Members had some questions related to the CSU proposals.

## **VII. Campus Reports**

Members reported about items related to graduate education from their divisions.

## **VIII. CSU Proposal Review Post-Mortem**

Members expressed some frustration with the process, but felt – for a first run – it had gone reasonably well. Reviewers said it was not clear what data should be considered and that there should have been communication between the CoGD and CCGA. It was also felt that UC campus feedback would have been very helpful. Members felt that more direction/clarity for the CSU proposers would have advantageous to their goal and wondered if there is any way UC could get the proposals any earlier than September. Also, perhaps some of these should be put forward as joint proposals with UC.

## **IX. New Program Proposals**

- A. Proposal for an Online Master of Business Administration (OMBA) from the Riverside Division [SSGPDP]  
*Lead Reviewer: Wayne Steward*

The Lead Reviewer is working on securing reviewers

- B. Proposal for a 4+1 BS/MS in Biological Sciences from the Irvine Division  
*Lead Reviewer: Chad Saltikov*

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

- C. Proposal for an En Route MA in Criminology, Law and Society from the Irvine Division  
*Lead Reviewer: Irene Beattie*

The Lead Reviewer is working with the proposers to align the proposal with campus guidelines.

- D. Proposal for an Online Master of Engineering in Water Resources Engineering from the Davis Division [SSGPDP]  
*Lead Reviewer: Neil Gilbert*

The Lead Reviewer has two reviews in and they are both supportive but raise some questions, primarily surrounding academic integrity vis-a-vis AI.

- E. Proposal for an Online Master of Engineering in Sustainable Transportation from the Davis Division [SSGPDP]

*Lead Reviewer: Dorota Dabrowska*

The Lead Reviewer reported that she had four reviews in hand that she had shared with the proposers and that they sent a revision late last night. The interdisciplinary group already exists and there is no overlap. Overall, she said it was a well-done proposal.

***Action Taken: The proposal was approved 9-0-2.***

- F. Proposal for an MS in Global Regulatory Science and Innovation (GRSI) from the San Francisco Division [SSGPDP]

*Lead Reviewer: Baolin Wu*

The Lead Reviewer commented that UCPB had objected to the proposal and that he was having difficulty getting a clear answer from the proposers in response to his questions.

- G. Proposal for Online Masters of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Biomedical Engineering for Healthcare Technologies from the Davis Division [SSGPDP]

*Lead Reviewer: Hyle Park*

The Lead Reviewer has received two reviews and is waiting on the other two.

- H. Proposal for an MS and PhD in Life and Environmental Sciences from the Merced Division

*Lead Reviewer: Joe McFadden*

The Lead Reviewer reported that the reviews were largely positive but some that the proposal had some shortcomings. He will reach out to the proposers.

- I. Proposal for a Master of Design (MDes) from the San Diego Division

***Action Taken: Erkin Seker was assigned as Lead Reviewer.***

- J. Proposal for an MA in Anthropology from the Santa Cruz Division

This proposal was returned to campus as a possible substantive change.

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

- A. Proposal to Change the name of the Graduate Program from Chicana and Chicano Studies to Chicana/o and Central American Studies, as well as the names of the MA

and PhD degrees from Chicana and Chicano Studies to Chicana/o and Central American Studies from the Los Angeles Division

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

- B. Proposal to Discontinue the PhD in History and Theory of Music from the Irvine Division

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

**XI. 4+1s and Double Counting of Units**

*Sutanu Sarkar and Hyle Park*

New wording was finalized.

***Action Taken: The language was approved 10-0-0.***

**XII. The Future of Doctoral Education Report and UCAD Plus**

Members discussed what actions had (or had not) taken place on the campuses in response to the Future of Doctoral Education Report. Overall, the committee felt that the original rollout did not provide clear guidance on how to provide feedback or what the next steps would be. It also believed that the recommendations made are no longer relevant in the light of federal changes. In addition, members expressed “fatigue” with UCAD Plus and felt that “ground up” efforts would be more effective.

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

- A. Chair Palazoglu’s Remarks to the Board of Regents
- B. Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Education Loan Practices PDF

**XIV. New Business**

Members discussed the differences between “programs” and “pathways.” This may need more in-depth discussion.

**XV. Executive Session**

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.

The committee adjourned at 2:36 p.m.