



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

In attendance: James Bisley, Chair, Partho Ghosh, Vice Chair, Ilan Adler (UCB), Ele Grandi (UCD), Tonya Williams Bradford (UCI), April Thames (UCLA), Sarita See (UCR) Wayne Steward (UCSF), Sutanu Sarkar (UCSD), Alex Simms (UCSB), Chad Saltikov (UCSC), Ryan Manriquez (student, UCB), Rebecca Ruiz (student, UCI), Peter Biehl (CoGD), Steven Cheung, Todd Greenspan, Carmen Corona, Chris Procello, Erith Jaffe-Berg (UCR, guest), and Fredye Harms (analyst)

I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Action Requested: The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed. 7-0-0

II. Chair's Report

Chair James Bisley

The Chair reported that he had attended two meetings since the last meeting of CCGA. Deputy Provost Amy Lee came to Council and reported on labor relations and gave Council some updates on how UC is interpreting upcoming laws. One will require finalist employees to provide a misconduct report from the last seven years. This applies to all employees, including GSRs, TAs, and post-docs. Another law stipulates that before a letter of recommendation can be written, the writer needs to confirm that the person has not been found to have been involved in sexual harassment. The catch is that this is confidential information; OP's lawyers are looking into it. Lastly, he informed members that they should have received a letter that announced a potential contract extension for GSRs and TAs. This is a result of a negotiation between OP and the union. The union got an increase in salary scales and the creation of a pilot transition program; UC got a contract extension until 2026.

The APC workgroup on the changing the system to the semester calendar now has increased CCGA representation. There were concerns about the sub-group looking at resources not having any Senate representation, but now it includes the former chair of UCPB. The meeting was held in two parts: one discussed costs, and the other consisted of a collection of breakout rooms to discuss optimal length of a term.

Members had some points of discussion.

III. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Steven W. Cheung, Academic Senate Chair

Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Senate Vice Chair

Senate Chair Cheung reported that November is always budget time at the Regents' meeting, and they approved an operating budget. There were three items of interest: capital projects, adjustment to salary schedules, and a non-resident tuition increase. Several Regents were concerned about the erosion of diversity and the administration said they would monitor it and report back. The UCRP contribution will increase to 15 percent as scheduled, and there will be a shortening the time to 17 years before funding. The employee contribution will remain the same. Merideth Turner, who has been serving in the interim role, has been confirmed as the permanent SVP of External Relations and Communication. Two Regents resigned. Regent Pérez will be replaced by Bob Meyers; Regent Sherman's seat has not yet been announced. Regent Sherman is a strong proponent of online education; it is not clear if his replacement would share the same sentiment. At the Committee on Health Services, EVP David Rubin noted that the community benefits exceeded \$5M last year, aggregated across all of the health enterprises. That meeting also featured a review of the Medicare Advantage program. The new name for this is the Century Health Plan. The map of coverage is quite impressive, and it covers a large network. The Regents acted to adapt the policy on the UC Diversity statement, which incorporates support for disabled community members as well as DEI among all student bodies and employees. Campus climate at UCLA was an item of concern for the Regents and there was substantial dissatisfaction regarding a perceived lack of discipline at UCLA. Discipline processes will be reviewed and explained at the next Regents' meeting. The UC investments office had a good quarter and the performance on working capital increased by 4.5 percent. The UAW tentatively agreed to a contract extension, which is very much welcomed by the University. MOP loans have been oversubscribed and CFO Brostrom said approximately \$100M will be delivered in January 2025; this does not require Regental approval. Finally, senior leadership searches are in full swing. President Drake is stepping down and he has committed to appointing new chancellors at Santa Barbara and Riverside before he leaves.

Senate Vice Chair Palazoglu discussed the calendar conversion group and noted that members have voiced genuine concerns about ways in which such a move would change the way the University functions. The group has had two meetings and a third is scheduled. One of the critical aspects is cost (both tangible and intangible) during the transition and beyond. The former UCPB chair has joined the group to help monitor this. The group is finalizing a survey to reach out to their constituencies and is developing a website to broadcast information about the workgroup and to serve as a portal for feedback.

Chair Cheung said that he was pleased to report that phase one of the APM 015 and 016 joint Senate/administrative workgroup has been completed. The group found that neither policy needed to be revised. This report was delivered to the Provost, and she is aggregating it with other reports to submit to the President. There may be consideration of guidelines similar to those for SVSH but that they would need to be modified to permit freedom of expression and academic freedom. The co-chairs of the joint workgroup on the future of doctoral education are making their rounds, discussing their draft report and collecting feedback.

Members had questions and there was considerable discussion.

IV. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Partho Ghosh

The Vice Chair reported that COGD had a full day meeting with invited administrative speakers, including President Drake. The group discussed a couple of themes: the struggle to determine how to fund graduate education and negotiation on the new contract. The President and CFO Brostrom expressed an interest in protecting core funds and said that faculty should get more grants. The Vice Chair noted that it is hard to get new grants, and they do not support the growth in salaries. SVP of External Relations and Communications Turner emphasized that it is hard to communicate to the public about the importance of graduate education and PhDs. The meeting also featured discussion with representatives from labor and APP; they expressed great satisfaction at the contract extension until Jan 2026. Deputy Provost Lee said that the new faculty advisory committee for negotiations has been very helpful. However, defining the difference between employment and student work (particularly in laboratory environments) continues to be challenging.

V. Council of Graduate Deans' Report

Dean Peter Biehl, UCSC

Dean Biehl told the group that Provost Newman unfortunately was unable to join the CoGD meeting; she is rescheduled for January 29. In better news, the CoGD now has a joint meeting with the VCRs on January 6. This is especially important in the arena of training grants. The CoGD is also now meeting monthly with representatives from APP and labor relations. He noted that this is critical because of the changes in the contracts, grievances, and the next admissions cycle; the University needs to be very clear on its messaging. The UC graduate student experience survey will be coming out soon and the final report from the APC Workgroup on the Future of Graduate Education is currently being circulated for review. The Dean expressed satisfaction with the appointment of Merideth Turner to lead external relations and communications. He said that UC needs to determine how it can explain the value of graduate education to the legislature and Regents. The Deans are working with SVP Turner to develop key messages for 2025; most people do not know what graduate education and graduate research entail and the value they add. CFO Brostrom discussed the MOP program and where UC stands with the compact with the governor. The University is facing about shortfalls in NSF and NIH funding. The Dean closed with mentioning the need for support for international and first-generation students.

VI. Announcements from Academic Affairs

Todd Greenspan, Executive Advisor, Academic Planning and Policy

Carmen Corona, Director of Academic Planning and Policy

Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst

Analyst Procello informed the group that the first-level revisions to the Compendium were going to APC for review/approval Thursday. If that goes well, a second round of more substantive changes may be undertaken.

Director Corona explained that UC had undergone an audit about OPM (online program management) which called for more transparency, better oversight, and adherence to WSCUC guidelines for self-supporting programs. She noted that the University has made minimal use of OPMs, but that a workgroup would be meeting to draft guidelines to address the audit.

Executive Advisor Greenspan shared the recent enrollment numbers with the committee. There was a small increase in the number of graduate students, which is very far from the number stipulated in the governor's compact. However, undergraduate enrollment exceeded compact expectations. He said that more detailed, by-campus numbers could be provided if members were interested.

VII. Statement About Graduate Education

Tonya Williams Bradford, UCI

Professor Williams Bradford explained that she was part of a subcommittee that worked on the [statement on graduate education](#) last year. The purpose of the statement was to concisely delineate faculty members' roles with regard to education versus employment. A more lengthy statement was put forward at the end of last year, which members reviewed this year. Members were not inclined to adopt a longer statement; the original statement will stand as-is.

VIII. New Program Proposals

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

The Lead Reviewer explained that the proposers had changed the program name and budget since it had originally been submitted. UCPB approved the budget changes, and the program does not require any additional adjustment.

Action Taken: The proposal was approved 9-0-1.

- B. Proposal for a Part-Time MS in Global Health Sciences from the San Francisco Division
Lead Reviewer: Chad Saltikov

The Lead Reviewer said that this is a self-supporting, one-year program that is proposing to change to two years. There are no changes other than allowing student to take it part-time. It is not clear if the proposal would replace the one-year track, and there was no mention of targeted enrollment. UCPB raised question about extra faculty workload. The budget shows an increase of about 53 percent in revenue, but there is no indication that these funds will be put back into the program. Similarly, tuition is being raised \$8K, which may have DEI implications. The Lead Reviewer will go back to the proposers with these concerns.

- C. Proposal for an MAS in Precision Medicine Therapeutics in Oncology from the San Diego Division [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: Ele Grandi

The Lead Reviewer received four reviews which were quite positive. She sent the proposers the reviews, the UCPB comments, and her summary and suggestions.

Action Taken: The proposal was approved 7-0-2.

- D. Proposal for a Master of Urban Studies and Regional Planning from the San Diego Division [PDST]
Lead Reviewer: John Abatzoglou

The Lead Reviewer submitted a written report; he was not present. After discussion, the committee decided to hold a vote via email pending the endorsement of the Lead Reviewer.

- E. Proposal for a PhD in Urban Studies and Planning from the San Diego Division
Lead Reviewer: Alex Simms

The Lead Reviewer noted that all the reviewers commented on the strength of the department and agreed that there was a need for a PhD. There was some concern regarding DEI goals.

Action Taken: The proposal was approved 7-0-2.

- F. Proposal for an *en Route* MS from the PhD in Astronomy from the San Diego Division
Lead Reviewer: Ilan Adler

The Lead Reviewer reported that the proposal met the four criteria for an *en route* Master's degree. There was a question about there perhaps being material online promoting the program before it was approved; this was later found to be a misunderstanding.

Action Taken: The proposal was approved 7-0-2.

IX. Language Acquisition Needs and UC Online
Professor Erith Jaffe-Berg, Former CCGA Chair, UCR

Professor Jaffe-Berg explained that the concept of students taking languages from campuses other than their home campus had been discussed as early as 2021. This service is currently available for undergraduates and UC Online is now trying to offer it for graduate students. Language offerings have shrunk in the past several years at UC and nationwide. Professor Jaffe-Berg acknowledged that online learning was not the idea way of receiving language education, but that online access was vastly preferable to no access at all. She added that an argument for inclusivity and access could be made for this effort. This would just provide access to language classes, not a fully online degree.

She noted that there used to be a UC consortium for languages several decades ago that was phased out; any subsequent plans were then interrupted by the Covid pandemic.

Members had many questions for Professor Jaffe-Berg and there was considerable discussion.

X. Systemwide Information and Items Under Systemwide Review

A. Senate Chair Cheung's Remarks to the Board of Regents

B. Proposed Presidential Policy on the Use of Animals in Research, Teaching, and Testing

Members determined that CCGA did not need to respond to this item.

XI. Campus and Student Reports

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

XII. New Business

There was no new business.

XIII. Executive Session

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.

XIV. DRAFT Report: Future of Doctoral Programs at the University of California

This discussion was held in Executive Session.

The committee adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Fredye Harms, Committee Analyst

Attest: James Bisley, Committee Chair