

COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, December 5, 2022

I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes***Action Taken:*** *The agenda and minutes were approved 10-0-0.***II. Chair's Report***Chair Erith Jaffe-Berg*

The Chair asked the new student representatives to introduce themselves. She also reminded members about the importance of timely reviews.

Chair Jaffe-Berg discussed highlights of the recent budget call. Provost Brown and Senate Chair Cochran acknowledged the difficulties experienced at the campuses because of the strike. Everyone is feeling overwhelmed. The fiscal projection is that the state will have significant budget difficulties; a \$70M deficit has been predicted. There is a "rainy day" fund that will hopefully offset some of that shortfall. Despite the poor outlook, plans are still in place for a five percent salary increase per the governor's Compact.

At the Regents' meeting, the Senate leadership shared the results of the third survey regarding the impact of Covid on faculty. The continued reverberations of Covid are being felt throughout the system.

Academic Council had its third meeting of the year. Chair Cochran cited the impact of the strike and made specific comments about students who hold visas. At the Regents' meeting, the chancellors asked for more money and more autonomy on the campuses. There is a drive among the Regents to pursue HR-driven solutions to the problems the University has been experiencing. Cal-GETC, a pathway for lower division courses which was developed in partnership with CSU and the CCC, was approved by the Council with some small edits. SR 630, which involves online education, was discussed. The Entry Level Writing Requirement (SR 686) was also reviewed. There was general support with a few edits.

III. Vice Chair's Report*Vice Chair Dean Tantillo*

Vice Chair Tantillo reported that the CoGD discussed the strike. He told the group about an interesting dashboard that was shared at CoGD: <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/doctoral-program>. He also attended the UCACC meeting. Improvements have been made at OP since the Accelion breach, including a 24-hour turn-around for security patches. This is remarkably fast. IT is also strengthening its their cyber security talent and is implementing a risk-management program to improve data storage. There was universal acknowledgment that there is a major gap between campus users and administrators in regard to new software such as Oracle. Finally, there may soon be a government mandate related to storage of data from government-funded research and also a possibility that all human biological samples will be treated as potentially identifiable, therefore requiring exceptionally high security.

IV. Campus Reports

UCB – The Graduate Council spent considerable time discussing a Conflict of Interest form. There is concern about how much time this additional effort this form will require.

UCD – The Graduate Council approved an SSGPDP in in Management that will be coming to CCGA.

UCI – The Graduate Council was asked to better define the academic responsibilities of the graduate students, because faculty need to grade student performance in independent research courses. There has been preliminary work on this, but it will definitely take more time and more discussion.

UCLA – The campus has been discussing the issue of student visas in light of the strike. There concern that some students might need legal help and talk about how that might be facilitated. There is also concern about federal reporting on the work of graduate students. Finally, the issue of remote teaching continues to be a topic of discussion.

UCM - The Graduate Council provided graduate students with an opportunity to voice concerns regarding their progress to degree in relation to the pandemic and the implementation of the Oracle system. It has also been working on a new policy for hybrid undergraduate programs.

UCR – The Graduate Council discussed the handling of a situation in Anthropology which involved NAGPRA and the handling of Native resources. It also discussed the remote exam policy. The GC decided to let departments and programs decide how to do their exam policies.

UCSD – The member was not present.

UCSF - Discussions have largely focused on continuing to try to harmonize all the bylaws for all the graduate programs. This has been an ongoing effort over the last year. The GC has also been working on a letter urging the chair of the Academic Senate to highlight issues of underfunding of graduate education, particularly at UCSF.

UCSB – Many of the same issues mentioned at the other campuses are also under discussion at UCSB. Faculty would like concrete guidance about effort reporting on federal grants. There is also significant concern about forthcoming shortfalls on existing financial commitments to grants, in light of probable increased costs. Student housing continues to be a problem.

UCSC - There is a task force that has been working for the last year on aspects of graduate education, support, and well-being; there is a report forthcoming. There are components of the proposal that include different ways of deploying resources that the campus currently has while emphasizing a renewed need for development of alternative funding streams.

V. 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 said that her office had just launched a new graduate admissions website: <https://graduate.universityofcalifornia.edu/>. Her office worked with undergraduate students to design it so that it is more engaging and useful. UC Communications was also very helpful in putting the site together. It is a great resource for the campuses to link to their webpages. The next admission cycle of the UC-HBCU initiative will include one year of fellowship support from the University. UC is also redirecting some funds to increase the stipend for professional development from \$1000 to \$5,000 and is adding a living supplement of \$3,000. UC is partnering with Academy Noire program; it is a wellness support resource for the UC-HBCU students. The University also has been able to get some additional grant funds for the UC-HSI grant, and the campuses will be able to fund a new HSI fellow. The stipend level has been increased for that program. Thirty-five percent of UC-HSI participants have

secured tenure-track positions and the remaining 65 percent are in post-doc programs.
<https://www.ucop.edu/graduate-studies/initiatives-outreach/uc-hsi-ddi.html>

Director Greenspan reported on graduate enrollment. Last year, the number of state-supported graduate students grew by 2000; this year growth is down by about 300 students. The University presented a report to the state about the Compact; it gives UC a fixed amount of five percent budget growth each year; the University needs to fund the enrollment growth out of those funds. UC is proposing a plan to spread the growth over the five years of the Compact.

Analyst Procello showed a slide deck regarding the Five-Year Perspectives from the campuses.

VI. Council of Graduate Deans' Report

Dean Jean-Pierre Delplanque

Dean Delplanque said that the Vice Chair had already reported fully on the CoGD meeting.

VII. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Susan Cochran, Academic Senate Chair

James Steintrager, Academic Senate Vice Chair

Academic Senate Chair Cochran told the committee that the Regents met three weeks ago and there was a briefing on the results of the spring 2022 faculty survey on the effects of Covid. She and Vice Chair Steintrager also attended a Regents' and chancellors' retreat. This was an opportunity for the parties to sit down and talk. All of the chancellors want more money and autonomy. The Regents want more access for undergraduate students and greater efficiencies. They also would like a translation of the University's work into social good. Given the intimacy and length of time of the retreat, the Regents' meeting that followed had a much better tone because participants had more of a personal interest. She and the Vice Chair had an opportunity to talk about what takes place in the classroom and laboratories.

Council endorsed the new transfer curriculum for community college students and Cal-GETC has been referred to the Academic Assembly. UC and CSU need to come up with a new, singular pathway for community college transfer. Another component of this effort is the AB 928 committee. This is composed of 16 people, many of whom are political appointees.

Vice Chair Steintrager reported on climate-related meetings. There was a meeting of the Pathways to a Fossil-Free UC Taskforce and the Global Climate Leadership Council (GCLC). Considerable time at the GCLC was taken up with reports from the Taskforce. The University has \$185M for competitive research grants related to energy efficiency and climate change. The deadline for letters of intent is in January. The Academic Senate Climate Crisis Group is another UC climate effort; it is intended to ensure that faculty and students are engaged in these efforts on the campuses.

Chair Cochran said that UCOP continues to negotiate with the UAW. A tentative agreement was reached last week. The Senate leadership does not participate in negotiations, but tries to ensure that OP keeps faculty and academic welfare in the forefront of negotiations. She underscored that there is no "magic pot" of money available at OP, and the state and federal governments have not offered to help. Most of the campuses are functioning in the red. The money for TAs is drawn from the academic budget which covers the salaries of Senate faculty and Unit 18 lecturers; there is limited funding there. Money for GSRs typically comes from grant funds that are brought into the University by faculty. Unless faculty are able to write

more grants than they are currently, there are going to be constraints in terms of how many students and trainees the University can support in the near future.

It is possible that the students who are participating in the strike will need to account for their hours to the federal authorities; reporting forms will need to be accurate for the work that is done. It is very likely that PIs will be asked to sign these forms and ensure they are correct. Grading is starting this week and many campuses are postponing grades while trying to determine who will be harmed by a delay in grades. It is possible that there will finally be some movement on the reformation of graduate funding, but the University is going to have to differentiate between academic work and work-for-pay. UC is going to face some challenges in this arena.

Members had questions for the leadership, and there was considerable discussion.

VIII. New Program Proposals (Part 1)

A. Proposal for a PhD in Astronomy on the Riverside Campus

Lead Reviewer: Michael Scheibner

The Lead Reviewer has reviewers, and one review in so far, which is supportive of the program.

B. Proposal for a College of Data Science and Society on the Berkeley Campus

Lead Reviewer: Andrei Goga

The Lead Reviewer has four reviewers secured and two have responded. Both were overwhelmingly positive and had some comments about coordination.

C. Proposal for a Master of Computational Social Sciences on the Berkeley Campus [SSGPDP]

Lead Reviewer: Jeffrey Schank

Four reviews and the UCPB review have been received. The Lead Reviewer has sent suggestions to the proposers, and they have responded well. UCPB approved the proposal but does have some concerns (shared by the Lead Reviewer) about the preparedness of students. The committee discussed the proposal and decided to approve it with the stipulation that the preparedness of the students monitored closely.

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

D. Pre-Proposal for a School of Population and Public Health on the Irvine Campus

Lead Reviewer: Dean Tantillo

The Lead Reviewer reported that the goal of this program is to help with health equity. The program is growing out of four existing departments that have 1300+ undergraduates currently as well as a new building that is coming online. UCPB's review was favorable. One external reviewer responded and quite positive.

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

- E. Proposal for a MA in Geographic Information Systems, Spatial Technologies, Applications, and Research on the Santa Cruz Campus
Lead Reviewer: Jennifer Smith

The Lead Reviewer was not present, but reported via email that she has three out of four reviewers secured.

IX. Discussion with the President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

Mark Lawson, Director, President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

Mr. Lawson was unable to attend. The committee will try to reschedule him for the new year.

X. New Program Proposals (Part 2)

- F. Master of Data Science in Health on the Los Angeles Campus [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: Frithjof Kruggel

The Lead Reviewer has received four reviews and the UCPB report. The program sounds very conservative and is geared toward professionals. It will be delivered in hybrid mode and classes will be held almost exclusively on weekends. The content is standard but rigorous, and the size and expertise of faculty is good. There are two significant concerns: CCGA recently approved another program in Data Science on the campus and it is unclear how much overlap they have and if they are competing for students. Also, because it is offered exclusively by the Biostatistics department, it might not have the required breadth.

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

- G. Courtesy (unofficial) Review: Gallo School of Management on the Merced Campus
Lead Reviewer: Andrew Fisher

The Lead Reviewer has four reviewers secured, with one review received.

- H. Master of Advanced Study in Engineering on the Berkeley Campus [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: Michelle O'Malley

The Lead Reviewer has struggled to find reviewers, but now has three out of secured.

- I. Pre-Proposal for a School of Computing Information and Data Science on the San Diego Campus
Lead Reviewer: Paul Macey

The Lead Reviewer is meeting with one of the reviewers tomorrow. One reviewer has already responded, and she had very specific suggestions and positive comments.

XI. Executive Session

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.

XII. New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Minutes taken by Fredye Harms, Committee Analyst
Attest:: Erith Jaffe-Berg, CCGA Chair