

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting
January 31, 2024****I. Consent Calendar**

1. Today's agenda items and their priority
2. Draft Minutes of December 13, 2023

ACTION: Council approved the consent calendar.

II. Senate Officers' Announcements

- o James Steintrager, Academic Council Chair
- o Steven W. Cheung, Academic Council Vice Chair

January Regents Meeting: Chair Steintrager's remarks addressed online education and the new Presidential Task Force on Instructional Modalities and UC Quality Undergraduate Degree Programs, as well as a proposed Regents Policy on Use of Administrative Websites. The Regents' policy proposal appeared on the January 24 agenda of the joint meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and Compliance and Audit Committee as an action item for adoption by the full Board. The policy would effectively bar departmental political statements from department websites and other official UC channels of communication. The Academic Council expressed [concerns](#) about the process leading to this action and requested an opportunity for a Senate review of the policy in time for discussion at the Regents March 19-21 meeting. The item was tabled, Council's request was granted, and an official request for review is forthcoming. Council will schedule a special meeting in March to discuss this topic.

The Regents voted to suspend a proposal for one year that would have allowed undocumented students to hold paying jobs at UC, based on concerns that the legal pathway for the proposal is not viable and carries significant risks for the University and its community members.

The Regents were scheduled to discuss Academic Senate Regulation 630.E, the campus experience requirement approved by the Senate last year, as a recommendation for approval, in keeping with Regents Bylaw 22.2, which spells out the Regents' reserved authorities. However, the item was deferred to a special February 14 meeting due to a lack of time.

UC Budget: The governor's proposed budget for 2024-25 includes \$4.74 billion in state general fund support for the University. However, the budget defers for one year the 5% increase in new ongoing support that UC expected to receive as part of the multi-year compact with the State. The budget calls for this funding to be included in the 2025-26 budget as a 10% increase.

III. Executive Session

Notes were not taken for this portion of the meeting.

IV. Proposed Revision to Senate Regulation 424 (Area H) and Revised Course Criteria

- **Barbara Knowlton, BOARS Chair**

Chair Knowlton noted that the revised Area H proposal was done so in response to Academic Council comments after an initial systemwide Senate review in winter 2021-22. The proposal introduces an ethnic studies requirement for freshman admission by incorporating Area H into the existing A-G subject requirements. It does not increase the overall number of required high school courses in the A-G pattern, but rather stipulates that at least one course used to fulfill another A-G area must be an approved half-unit course in ethnic studies. The revised proposal includes an updated set of course criteria and guidelines for Area H, developed by BOARS' Ethnic Studies Implementation Workgroup. These criteria outline UC's expectations for Area H courses. The addition of Area H aligns UC with the state of California's new ethnic studies graduation requirement for all public high school students established by Assembly Bill 101.

Council's 2022 request to BOARS sought clarity on three issues: 1) the relationship of the UC criteria to the State's model curriculum for ethnic studies courses, and their respective inclusiveness; 2) the means by which high school students can fulfill the requirement if they do not have access to qualifying courses; and 3) the crafting of language that would translate expert language in the criteria to be more accessible to the general public.

The 2020-21 BOARS voted unanimously to endorse the proposal; however, the 2023-24 BOARS was divided on the proposal, narrowly voting (5-6) against transmitting it to the Academic Council for consideration of another systemwide review. Several BOARS members remain concerned about the proposal's viability, particularly regarding the potential difficulty for many high schools to offer a course meeting the Area H criteria. Some also argue that an additional ethnic studies requirement might not be necessary for students' preparation for and academic success at UC. It was ultimately determined that BOARS was procedurally obligated to respond to the Council with the findings from their review of the issues raised by Council.

During the discussion:

- Several Council members spoke in favor of sending the proposal for a second systemwide Senate review, emphasizing the significant changes BOARS made to the Area H course criteria since the first review and the need for broader campus community consideration of both the proposal and concerns about course access in high schools across the state.
- Other Council members expressed support for BOARS' majority recommendation that access issues will make the proposal unviable. They were skeptical that a systemwide review would provide new information.
- Other members spoke in favor of returning the proposal to BOARS to develop a stronger consensus around a proposal. It was also suggested that BOARS consider a phased-in approach to assess the effectiveness of K-12 implementation and ethnic studies course access. Chair Knowlton responded that there is a fundamental difference of opinion in BOARS that is unlikely to be resolved through additional discussion.
- A member encouraged a broader conception of academic "success" at UC that includes the development of good citizenship, tolerance, and understanding of diverse communities.

- Concern was expressed about the fluctuating views of BOARS; the Senate’s credibility relies on maintaining consistency and continuity during a policy development process that requires thorough deliberations over time.
- Concern was expressed about potential conflict of interest for any ethnic studies faculty who participated on the workgroups developing the area H criteria if they also are affiliated with private companies that could sell ethnic studies course materials to K-12 schools. Executive Director Lin responded that faculty experts from the corresponding discipline have always been consulted when developing criteria for high school course content determining A-G eligibility for UC admission. Ethnic studies faculty experts have been involved in developing the Area H criteria for several years. This effort is also distinct as it introduces a brand-new subject area rather than building on past criteria in other A-F disciplines.

ACTION: A motion to send the proposal for systemwide Senate review passed 13 to 6 with 1 abstention.

V. Consultation with Senior Managers

- **Michael V. Drake, President**
- **Katherine Newman, Provost & Executive Vice President**

Middle East Conflict: The ongoing Middle East conflict poses challenges for UC, manifesting in campus divisions. U.S. higher education’s response to the crisis has also become a political target for elected officials and others. In November 2023, UCOP announced funding opportunities for campuses to initiate programs aimed at combating intolerance and fostering a safe and respectful campus environment. UCOP will fund at least 50 initiatives focusing on dialogue, mental health, and conflict de-escalation. In addition, UCOP is developing a First Amendment toolkit to assist campuses in managing challenges and is launching a new systemwide Office of Civil Rights to coordinate Title IX and anti-discrimination efforts across campuses.

Regents Meeting: The January Regents meeting addressed various issues, including student employment opportunities for undocumented students. UC concluded that the legal pathway to employment for undocumented students was not viable and too risky at this time. Despite this, the University will continue to explore options and advocate for legislation enabling undocumented students to access jobs that can support both their educational experience and financial well-being.

Budget: Due to a \$38 billion state budget shortfall, the planned 5% budget increase for 2024-25 under UC’s compact with the State will be delayed one year, with a 10% increase scheduled for 2025-26. Despite this delay, UC believes it can maintain its current expenditure plan for 2024-25 through borrowing.

Academic Congresses: As a follow-up to the October 2023 Congress on the Future of Graduate Education, Provost Newman hosted a one-day workshop focused on faculty innovations in undergraduate education delivery. Congresses on artificial intelligence and online education are planned for February and May 2024, respectively. The provost is collaborating with UCORP and the Office of Research & Innovation to plan a congress for next academic year on the future of research support.

Instructional Modalities Task Force: Provost Newman highlighted the joint Presidential Task Force on Instructional Modalities and UC Quality Undergraduate Degree Programs (IMOD) that is tasked with understanding the resources needed to support UC-quality fully online programs. She noted that UC's contributions to online education will be unique due to UC's commitment to quality.

UCCS: The new UC Center in Sacramento enhances UC's presence in the Capitol, serves as a hub to exhibit faculty research and communicate policy ideas, and provides opportunities for student internships and the integration of college majors across policy and other disciplinary areas.

During the discussion:

- Council members asked President Drake to comment on the issue of department websites and campus free speech, urging the University to continue supporting freedom of speech and academic freedom. They expressed concerns about the recent exchanges in Washington, DC between elected officials and university presidents and ongoing criticisms of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in higher education. A Council member urged UCOP to intervene to ensure that UC protestors arrested outside of the January Regents meeting do not suffer adverse consequences.

President Drake emphasized his strong support for free speech and academic freedom. He also stressed the importance of ensuring that personal views on UC department websites are not mistaken for official University positions. He noted that the First Amendment toolkit will provide legal grounding and protect the University from missteps. While acknowledging the troubling attacks on DEI, he emphasized the importance of listening to opposing views.

- A Council member observed that a regent recently released a statement about a political issue on UC letterhead with a disclaimer about the individual's views not being an official University position. Similarly, a disclaimer for a department statement should provide sufficient clarity without requiring a total ban on such statements.
- A member expressed concern about a proposed state Assembly constitutional amendment (ACA) that could limit UC's ability to contract out for labor.

President Drake noted that ACAs are inappropriate intrusions on the University's autonomy that could lead to additional legislative interference that has become common in other states. He encouraged faculty to express their views about the ACA to their locally elected representatives.

VI. Academic Personnel and Programs (APP)

- **Douglas Haynes, Vice Provost, Academic Personnel and Programs**
- **Amy K. Lee, Associate Vice Provost, Academic Personnel and Programs**

Academic Labor: Associate Vice Provost Lee updated Council about the status of a recent proposal to allow visiting assistant professors in mathematics to join the postdoctoral scholars bargaining unit under the title "Math Fellow."

Legislation Affecting Academic Personnel: The governor signed Senate Bill 791, which asks applicants for UC academic and administrative positions to disclose any findings of sexual harassment against them within the seven years preceding their application. Proposed state Assembly Bill 810 seeks to extend to all UC employment applicants the misconduct background check process currently used at UCLA, UCSD, and UCD for tenured academic positions. The University is concerned about the potential implementation challenges and costs, which could impede faculty recruitment.

Negotiated Salary Program: UCOP is currently reviewing feedback received from locations and constituencies regarding the proposed Academic Personnel Manual (APM) 672, which aims to codify the Negotiated Salary Trial Program as a permanent Negotiated Salary Program.

During the discussion:

- Council members reiterated their request for systemwide guidance on issues related to graduate student activity during summer, including considerations for students who work on their dissertations during the summer but are not enrolled in courses or who work at less than 50% time.

VII. UCEP memo on Regional and Institutional Accreditation Terminology

- **Melanie Cocco, UCEP Chair**

Chair Cocco noted that in 2020, the U.S. Department of Education removed the differentiation between regional and national accrediting agencies, creating a new comprehensive list of accreditors. Consequently, organizations previously classified as “national” accrediting agencies are now in a single list that includes the regional agencies that UC has long accepted for institutional accreditation purposes. The University of California currently accepts courses for transfer credit from seven accrediting organizations that were previously termed “regional.” However, the distinct list for “regional” accreditors no longer exists. UC policies and guidelines have not yet been revised to specifically refer to those formerly regional agencies now incorporated into the new list. UCEP asked Council to endorse a letter recommending that UC continue accepting courses only from institutions that are accredited by the formerly regional accrediting agencies.

ACTION: Council passed a motion to endorse and transmit the memo to Provost Newman.

VIII. Academic Council Special Committee on Transfer Issues (ACSCOTI)

- **Jim Chalfant, ACSCOTI Chair**

ACSCOTI’s primary focus this year is California Assembly Bill (AB) 928. This bill called for the establishment of a “singular lower-division general education pathway” that meets the academic requirements for transfer admission from the California Community Colleges (CCC) to both UC and CSU. Cal-GETC successfully fulfilled this mandate. The bill also established the AB 928 Intersegmental Implementation Committee, which is recommending seven new Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs) in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) fields that prepare CCC students simultaneously for CSU and UC. ADTs are capped at 60 semester units, and guarantee admission to the CSU system. While UC Senate regulations guarantee a comprehensive review for any UC transfer applicant completing an ADT, ADTs are

not the optimal choice for UC transfers because they were designed for CSU transfer, include unnecessary electives for certain UC majors, and exclude key major preparation courses required for others. ACSCOTI recommends that students aspiring to a specific UC major prioritize major preparation over general education and focus on a subset of UC campuses.

Six UC campuses offer Transfer Admission Guarantees (TAGs). ACSCOTI supports the idea that any new ADT should be compatible with all UC campuses and align with TAGs and UC Transfer Pathways (UCTPs), which encompass courses required by UC majors for transfer admission.

Assembly Bill 1291 requires UCLA and then at least five other UC campuses to identify majors for which ADT recipients will receive admission priority from “select” community colleges.

ACSCOTI is actively exploring new UC Transfer Pathways for Data Science and Environmental Science. It also aims to support UCLA’s AB 1291 task force and collaborate with BOARS, UCOP Institutional Research and Academic Planning, UCOP Admissions, and UC Online on projects related to articulation and general education completion.

ACSCOTI proposes three enhancements for the UC transfer path:

1. Campuses should introduce a third alternative for transfer by extending general education options to allow transfers with partial Cal-GETC to fulfill the requirement through post-transfer coursework.
2. The Senate should amend the Cal-GETC Area 5 requirement for “two distinct disciplines” to recognize physics and chemistry as fulfilling Area 5.
3. UC should grant the same admission priority to transfers completing a UCTP and Cal-GETC as to those completing an ADT.

IX. UC Health

o David Rubin, Executive Vice President, UC Health

Executive Vice President Rubin, who joined UCOP in October 2023, briefly summarized his background as a UCSF School of Medicine graduate who most recently served as director of population health innovation at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

He noted that UC Health is the systemwide entity that comprises the six UC academic health centers. It facilitates dialogue among campus administrative leaders, faculty, students, state and community partners, and other constituencies.

Dr. Rubin acknowledged the volatile and fragmented state of California’s healthcare environment and emphasized that access to care is declining in certain regions. The UC medical centers are expanding in response to rising demand for quality care. UC Care strives to maintain its position as the pinnacle provider of quality care in the state and the provider of choice for UC students, employees, and campus community members. To support this vision, UC Health focuses on its tripartite mission of education, research, and clinical care, organized around five strategic pillars: expanding the UC Health workforce, prioritizing cross-campus research and innovation activities, building public health connections, optimizing the clinical enterprise, and reducing costs to deliver better value.

During the discussion:

- A Council member inquired about UC Health’s plans for expanding care in communities such as Riverside and Merced that rely on faith-based healthcare organizations. Another asked about UC Health’s positioning in relation to faith-based organizations.

Dr. Rubin responded that UC Health is exploring solutions to meet its goal of expanding access in the Riverside and Merced communities, including costsharing and cross-campus investments, as well as through additional acquisitions or affiliations. He acknowledged the strong community care record of faith-based organizations, but also emphasized that the Regents policy on affiliations aims to protect UC values and prioritize the judgment of UC faculty working at affiliate locations.

- There were questions about what it means to be a UC-affiliated physician versus a UC-employed clinical faculty member, in the context of UC Health’s acquisition of hospitals and expansion of affiliations.

Dr. Rubin acknowledged concerns about the growth of non-Senate health sciences clinical faculty and the importance of maintaining faculty representation boundaries as UC Health grows. He emphasized the need to negotiate any solutions with the Academic Senate.

- A member asked how UC Health could leverage the University’s scale, not only to create more efficient processes, but also to grow the scale of its public health mission.

Dr. Rubin emphasized that UC Health wants to increase its leadership in research and public health, noting UC’s recent acquisition of for-profit health systems. He highlighted the role of cross-campus consortia in building scale and simplifying administrative processes, and said he wants to engage faculty in developing a strategic framework defining areas where UC Health can add value to individual campuses. He emphasized the importance of listening to faculty, aligning healthcare system goals with the concerns of faculty on the ground, and centering the clinician experience in the strategic plan.

X. Reports from Senate Division Chairs

Individual division chairs touched on: continued challenges with the Oracle financial management system and poor faculty morale; efforts to increase faculty consultation and shared governance around athletics and the budget; accommodations for students with disabilities including the filming of lectures by third parties; and limits to summer course enrollments.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm
Minutes prepared by Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director
Attest: James Steintrager, Academic Council Chair