

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting  
March 29, 2023****I. Consent Calendar**

1. Today's agenda items and their priority
2. Draft Council Minutes of February 22, 2023
3. Pre-proposal for UCSD School of Computing, Information, & Data Sciences
4. April 19 Assembly agenda topics
  - a. Approval of conforming amendments to Senate regulations on undergraduate admissions
  - b. Approval of proposed amendments to SR 636 (Entry Level Writing Requirement)
  - c. Assembly adoption of the *American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* as its rules to govern questions of order
  - d. Consultation with Senior Managers
  - e. Election of the 2023-24 Academic Senate Vice Chair

**ACTION: Council approved the consent calendar.**

**II. Senate Officers' Announcements**

- o **Susan Cochran, Academic Council Chair**

March Regents Meeting: A Senate presentation team updated the Academic and Student Affairs Committee on the progress of implementing the recommendations of the UC-CCC Transfer Task Force to streamline lower-division general education transfer requirements and improve the articulation of major preparation courses and transfer paths between the California Community College and UC segments. The team discussed the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC), which was approved by the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates in response to Assembly Bill 928. It also highlighted the efforts of the Academic Council Special Committee on Transfer Issues to streamline policies and practices related to UC Transfer Pathways.

The Regents are concerned about the possibility of a wildcat strike and want the administration to take steps to prevent further labor disruptions. Additionally, individual regents were impressed by positive media coverage of the Academic Senate's new policy (Senate Regulation 630) that requires an in-person campus experience for undergraduates.

Legislation: The Senate led the University's response to a proposed budget trailer bill (Assembly Bill 1749) that would require UC to establish a transfer admission guarantee program for California Community College (CCC) students with an Associate Degree for Transfer. The Senate put forth an alternative proposal that will ensure UC admission to CCC transfer applicants who complete both the Cal-GETC and a UC Transfer Pathway with an acceptable GPA. The proposal has received positive feedback from the UC administration and members of the state assembly.

Systemwide Groups: Susannah Scott, Division Chair at UCSB, will be appointed co-chair of a new joint Senate-Administration workgroup focused on shaping the future of UC doctoral education. In addition, Provost Newman plans to convene a systemwide congress on doctoral education, which she will discuss with Council later today.

Faculty Salaries: President Drake responded to Council's recent letter on faculty salaries by noting that the entirety of a 4.6 percent increase to faculty salaries will be applied as a general range adjustment to the salary scales. The president also declined Council's request to implement faculty salary increases on July 1 rather than October 1.

### **III. Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Undergraduate Admissions**

Council reviewed comments from the Senate review of proposed amendments to several Senate regulations governing undergraduate admission, including Regulations 419, 428, 440, 450, 452, 464, and 465, and a new Regulation 467. The amendments aim to align Senate regulations with recent policy actions by the Board of Regents related to standardized testing (such as the removal of standardized tests from the Comprehensive Review admission criteria) and the consolidation of Regents Standing Orders and associated policies on admissions.

Senate reviewers expressed general support for the amendments, but there were also requests to better define the term "compare favorably," replace the broad term "standardized tests" with explicit references to the SAT and ACT scores that have been eliminated in order to leave a window open for future reconsideration of tests, and to clearly state the legitimate post-admission uses of SAT/ACT scores that remain.

BOARS Chair Knowlton noted that the amended regulation includes appropriate flexibility to accommodate a future reconsideration of standardized tests, although the Regents are unlikely to move in that direction. She also noted that BOARS will be discussing new approaches to assessing the "compare favorably" standard in the absence of standardized test scores, but those implementation details are not typically outlined within the Senate regulations.

**ACTION: Council endorsed the amendments pending a BOARS review of the questions raised. The amendments will be forwarded to Assembly for approval.**

### **IV. UC Rules and Jurisdiction (UCRJ) Issues**

#### **1. Proposed Update to Senate Parliamentary Authority**

In November 2004, the Assembly adopted the *Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedures* ("Sturgis") for all rules of order except "Division of a Question" in matters that are not covered by Senate legislation, and *Robert's Rules of Order* for the Division of a Question based on its majority vote requirement. The 2004 edition of Sturgis was updated in 2012 and renamed the *American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure (AIPSC)*. UCRJ recommends that the Assembly revise its 2004 policy to account for the 2012 version of the *AIPSC*. UCRJ also recommends that the Assembly eliminate the carve-out for the Division of a Question to maintain consistency with other parts of the *AIPSC* that vest authority in the chair and to reduce the number of votes on the technical details of running the meeting. In addition,

the *AIPSC* revises its approach to Division of a Question in a way that is more aligned with Robert's Rules.

**ACTION: Council approved a motion to endorse the recommendation and forward it to the Assembly.**

## **2. Recommendations for Use of Chat in Virtual Senate Meetings**

UCRJ responded to Chair Cochran's request for guidance about how virtual (i.e., Zoom) Academic Senate committee meetings should be run in accordance with parliamentary procedures, and specifically how to treat Zoom chat conversations within the normative meeting rules and procedures outlined in the *American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure*. The committee recommended several considerations and best practices around the use of chat in virtual meetings of Senate committees.

**ACTION: Council approved a motion to endorse the letter and distribute it to Senate divisions for discussion and implementation.**

## **V. UCB College of Computing, Data Science, and Society**

Council reviewed letters from CCGA, UCEP, and UCPB regarding the proposed establishment of a new College of Computing, Data Science, and Society (CDSS) at UC Berkeley. In 2021, the three committees had reviewed a pre-proposal for the CDSS and raised concerns about the viability of a single department reporting to two academic units: the College of Engineering (COE) and the CDSS division; the lack of support from other campus entities proposed to work with the CDSS and proposed to join the CDSS; and the inclusion of the term "Society" in the CDSS name without faculty expertise in that area. The committees found that the full proposal did not address many of these concerns.

The chairs of UCEP, CCGA, and UCPB summarized their committees' concerns and noted that CCGA and UCPB had approved the program, but that UCEP had voted against it. UCB Division Chair Smart summarized the proposal's history, efforts underway to address some of the concerns, and challenges associated with addressing others. Chair Cochran noted that the Compendium requires the Council chair to act as an arbiter in cases of disagreement among the three committees and allows Council to issue an approval "contingent on the resolution of key issues raised by the reviews." Chair Cochran recently met with the Senate committee chairs and UCB chair to craft a motion to endorse the establishment of the CDSS contingent on UCB meeting several conditions by September 30, 2023. These conditions include establishing an MOU between the CDSS and the COE that assigns responsibility for several departmental matters to a single academic unit; obtaining letters of support from key campus partners; articulating plans for a faculty executive committee within CDSS; and developing Senate bylaws for the college.

- Council members noted that presence of "society" in the proposed college helps make it unique and intellectually exciting, but the current proposal lacks academic rigor in its consideration of "society." Putting in place the right intellectual infrastructure should help address the matter in the future.
- Council members recommended that the Senate request that all full proposals explicitly address any issues raised by Senate committees in their pre-proposal review.

**ACTION: Council approved sending a letter to Provost Newman outlining the conditions for approval.**

**VI. Consultation with Senior Managers**

- Michael Drake, President
- Katherine Newman, Provost & Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs
- Nathan Brostrom, Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

Graduate Education: Provost Newman shared information about two systemwide initiatives that aim to evaluate the future of graduate education at UC and its funding. The first effort involves the formation of a joint Senate-Administration workgroup to provide recommendations on new pedagogical models for graduate education and training. The second is to convene a systemwide congress in June that will facilitate discussions around innovative approaches to graduate training and funding across different UC campuses.

Provost Newman mentioned that UC Federal Government Relations is collaborating with federal agencies to increase awareness about how new graduate student worker contracts increase expenses to grants. Although short-term financial relief is unlikely, UC is optimistic about securing higher federal appropriations over the long term. It is important to note that funding challenges are not specific to the UC system but impact institutions throughout the nation. Provost Newman also noted that UC vice chancellors for research will meet in May in Washington, DC with representatives from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and Department of Energy.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship: A new Regents Committee on Entrepreneurship will discuss strategies for supporting campus efforts to increase revenue-generating entrepreneurship, develop networks, enhance training opportunities, and obtain resources for early-stage commercialization. UC is also seeking to take advantage of new opportunities for multi-campus grants to support graduate students and faculty.

Budget Issues: The extension of the California tax filing deadline for many counties to October 16 has complicated the state budget process, which typically relies on tax revenue projections for the budget it approves in June. The University is disappointed that the proposed state budget does not include capital funding to address seismic and deferred maintenance needs. These needs include \$15 billion of mandated seismic retrofits for UC medical centers by 2030. UC is exploring alternative strategies for funding capital projects, such as lease revenue bonds, low-interest loans from the Pooled Money Investment Account, and a General Obligation Bond for the 2024 statewide ballot.

Housing: When asked about UC's approach to systemwide planning for student housing, CFO Brostrom noted that the University has built more student beds than any other institution in the past decade but acknowledged that considerable demands and discrepancies in need and capacity persist across campuses. To address these issues, UC is aiming to construct 25,000 new student beds within the next six years, and also has preliminary plans to build an additional 16,000. UC is also leveraging a recently established state housing grant program, and a second proposed state program that is anticipated to furnish zero-interest loans to campuses for new housing.

Rebenching: The University is implementing several of the Council’s recommended modifications to the Budget Allocation Model (previously known as “rebenching”), with a particular focus on revising the weighting formulas and using actual enrollments instead of budgeted ones for calculating campus allocations. However, one matter that remains unresolved is how to handle set-asides. UCOP plans to establish a joint committee to evaluate which set-asides should be retained or phased out.

Strike Aftermath: President Drake expressed concern about the detrimental effects of the graduate student strike on the undergraduate experience, particularly for first-year and other vulnerable students. UC leaders are conducting an after-action assessment aimed at improving their future ability to handle strikes, and are also considering procedures for fairly and promptly docking pay during an unauthorized strike.

President Drake emphasized that UCOP has issued no mandate for a graduate student enrollment cut and is not planning for systemwide enrollment reductions; however, financial pressures may lead individual units to adjust enrollment. Administrators are identifying funding to help campuses bridge short-term cost increases this fiscal year, but longer-term support may be harder to come by.

Transfer: President Drake noted that California political leaders are interested in the community college transfer process. UC is one of the nation’s leaders in supporting transfer and is working to increase its capacity to accept more transfers. He thanked the Academic Senate for crafting language for a transfer guarantee that clarifies options for California Community College students interested in transferring to UC.

- Council members noted that faculty and other stakeholders received inadequate guidance and inaccurate information during the strike. They suggested that to prevent similar issues in the future UC develop advance contingency and communication plans. Members also expressed apprehension about the possibility of wildcat strikes on campuses and urged the administration to engage with faculty in developing preventive measures and response plans based on clear principles, rather than ad hoc decisions. They also noted that faculty are not optimistic about the University’s ability to avoid cuts to grant-funded graduate student enrollment. They urged administrators to remember that graduate student employees are also students who need to feel supported and integrated into the UC intellectual community.
- President Drake and Provost Newman noted that they are gathering post-strike feedback from a wide range of stakeholders to improve communication strategies and develop better practices. As part of this effort, Provost Newman has arranged for the UC labor relations team to present an after-action report and engage in discussions with the Council later today. The leaders acknowledged that students’ newly acquired status as represented employees creates new limitations on communication. Nevertheless, they agreed on the importance of treating student employees as students and providing them with adequate support. The administration has been holding frequent meetings with student groups during which students have expressed a strong desire to maintain a mentor-mentee relationship with faculty.

## **VII. Executive Session: Nomination of 2023-24 Vice Chair**

**ACTION: Council selected Professor Steven Cheung of UC San Francisco as its candidate for 2023-24 Vice Chair. The nomination will be forwarded to the Assembly of the Academic Senate for consideration at the April 19 meeting.**

**VIII. Executive Session: Mid-Career Leadership Award**

**ACTION: Council selected Professor Daniel Widener (UCSD) and Professor Katheryn Russ (UCD) as the 2023 recipients of the award.**

**IX. Executive Session: Strike After-Action Discussion**

- Melissa Matella, Associate Vice President, Employee & Labor Relations
- Amy K. Lee, Associate Vice Provost, Academic Personnel & Programs
- Allison Woodall, Deputy General Counsel, UC Legal

**X. UCFW Letter on Retirement Savings Plan Expansion**

- Teresa Dalton, UCFW Chair

The UCFW Task Force on Investment and Retirement asked the Council to support its request to the UC Chief Investment Officer to allow UC employees to invest in a new UC real estate asset as part of the UC Retirement Savings Plan, specifically UC's \$4 billion investment in a real estate fund managed by Blackstone, a private equity firm.

During the discussion, individual Council members expressed support for giving employees the option of investing in the Blackstone fund. Others noted that they lacked information to make an informed decision about the risks and ethical considerations of such an investment, and others felt it was not the Council's role to delve into the specifics of investment options.

**ACTION: A motion to endorse the proposal failed 4 to 14.**

**XI. Reports from Senate Division Chairs**

Individual campuses have appointed joint Senate-Administration post-strike work groups to discuss the future of graduate education and graduate funding. Some of these groups are working on cost projections related to the new graduate student contracts and developing guidance for faculty about how to talk with represented student employees about their job duties and academic/work performance.

Senate divisions are pushing for additional shared governance and faculty involvement in budgeting matters such as setting enrollment targets, and introducing initiatives to increase faculty budget literacy. Other divisions are considering how to expand online course offerings in a thoughtful matter, discussing how to better recognize and reward faculty contributions to diversity, and assessing opportunities for right-sizing campus administration.

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