

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

**Minutes of Videoconference Meeting
May 25, 2022****I. Consent Calendar**

1. Today's agenda items and their priority
2. Academic Council minutes of April 27, 2022
3. Assembly Apportionment for 2022-23 (no change over 2021-22)
4. 2022-23 UCOC Vice Chair

ACTION: Council approved the consent calendar.

II. Senate Officers' Announcements

- **Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Chair**
- **Susan Cochran, Academic Council Vice Chair**

Budget: On May 13, Governor Newsom released his May Revision budget proposal for 2022-23. It includes a compact agreement with UC that proposes 5% increases in each of the next five years if the University meets policy targets related to access, affordability, student success, and intersegmental cooperation. The budget does not provide, as hoped, additional one-time funding for deferred maintenance, seismic retrofitting, and energy efficiency projects. Senate leaders have asked the University to use the final phase of the budget cycle to explore funding opportunities for capital projects and for faculty salary increases that better offset inflation.

May Regents Meeting: The Regents elected Richard Leib and Gareth Elliott chair and vice chair of the Board. Chair Horwitz's remarks to the Regents focused on the systemwide faculty vote on the climate crisis Memorial and ICAS's approval of a proposed revised IGETC that meets the requirements of Assembly Bill 928 to create a singular transfer pathway from the CCC to CSU and UC. The Senate's review of the new IGETC will commence this fall. The Regents also discussed student financial aid policy, efforts to advance faculty diversity and clinician morale, and the recommendations of the Joint Senate-Administration Mitigating COVID-19 Impacts on Faculty Working Group. The Regents agreed with the Senate that there is no need to amend the APM to recognize faculty accomplishments in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Ethnic Studies Proposal BOARS is considering Council's request for further consideration of an ethnic studies requirement for first-year admission. BOARS has posted a statement on its website noting that it supports Ethnic Studies as a discipline and is engaged in evidence-based deliberations to create a policy that is in the best interests of students to ensure that they have both access to and preparation for a UC education.

Software: Senate leaders have asked UCOP to engage UC faculty experts in decision-making around the University's software procurement.

Academic Integrity: Senate leaders will meet next week with UC lawyers and external intellectual property experts to consider strategies for challenging external online tutoring service providers that facilitate student cheating and faculty IP theft.

Master's Program Reviews: CCGA Chair Kasko noted that the joint Academic Planning Council Workgroup on Master's Degree Programs and Program Review has completed its evaluation of

systemwide review processes for Master's degree proposals. The workgroup concluded that the existing process is efficient and effective, and it agreed to preserve a continued role for CCGA in reviews.

- Council members expressed concern about the Supreme Court's expected vote to overturn abortion rights and how such a decision would affect UC Health's affiliations with religious hospitals.

III. Phase Two Report of the Entry Level Writing Requirement Task Force

- **ELWR TF Co-Chairs Dana Ferris (UCD) & Karen Gocsik (UCSD)**

The Task Force has completed its Phase 2 report, which includes additional recommendations for the UC Entry Level Writing Requirement and a proposal to update Senate Regulation 636. Council discussed the Task Force's Phase 1 report in March.

The Phase 2 report has a two-part thesis: (1) individual campuses need agency and autonomy to design placement processes in ways consistent with their campus needs, particularly their ELWR curriculum; and (2) a model that allows input into the placement process from both writing programs and students provides the best opportunity for success.

The report notes that since 2020, when pandemic circumstances cancelled the Advanced Writing Placement Exam (AWPE), several campuses have transitioned placement processes to local collaborative models. It is too soon to assess the effect of these moves, but survey data suggests that students are more satisfied when they have input. UC announced that it was permanently discontinuing the use of the AWPE as a systemwide exam after 2022.

The Phase 2 report proposes several principles for ELWR placement methods. They must serve as instruments of equity; be demonstrably reliable and unbiased; be designed to educate students and encourage their agency; be contextually and consequentially valid; be locally determined, but informed by principles articulated in the Task Force report; and be accountable to students, local campuses, and UC. The Task Force recommends establishing an Entry Level Writing Requirement Oversight Committee to advise UCOPE and support accountability. It recommends that UC fund placement programs and support for students undergoing the placement process. And it recommends that the Senate revise SR 636 to reflect the principle establishing the ELWR as an instrument of equity and inclusion.

- Council members expressed support for a mix of Senate faculty and Unit 18 lecturers on the proposed Oversight Committee.

ACTION: The reports will circulate for systemwide Senate review in the fall.

IV. Five-Year MRU Reviews

- **Karen Bales, UCORP Chair**

Council reviewed reports from the two Five-Year MRU Reviews led by UCORP. UCORP reviewed the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation and The Dickens Project as specified by the Compendium, with UCORP as the lead committee and the participation of members of UCPB and CCGA, who consulted with their respective committees.

The Dickens Project: The multi-campus consortium based at UCSC engages 40 member institutions and studies the work of Charles Dickens. The Review Committee recommended

renewing the Dickens Project as an MRU unit for five years. The Committee also recommended strengthening the multi-campus nature of the MRU by reaching out to other UC campuses, attracting sustainable funding, and tracking diversity statistics.

UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC): The IGCC is based at UCSD, provides academic leadership in the area of global conflict and cooperation, and plays a critical role in understanding and mitigating threats to global peace. The Review Committee recommended renewing the IGCC as an MRU for five years, but also encouraged the MRU to enhance transparency in decision-making, improve communication to clarify the MRU's priorities, expand its reach to more campuses, expand its focus on undergraduate education, and develop a diversity plan.

- Members expressed concern that the IGCC's systemwide activities are not well-documented and the MRU may be insufficiently multi-campus in nature to justify its continued status as an MRU. The MRU should sunset unless it addresses the recommendations identified, particularly the expansion to other UC campuses.

ACTION: UCORP will revise the reports for additional Council discussion in June.

V. UCAP Response re LSOE service on Divisional CAPs
○ **Francis Dunn, UCAP Vice Chair**

Council reviewed a revised UCAP letter addressing issues related to the voting rights of Lecturers with Security of Employment who serve on Divisional CAPs.

ACTION: Council approved the letter for distribution to Division Chairs to share with Committees on Academic Personnel, Rules and Jurisdiction, and Committees, as well as to Executive Vice Chancellors and Vice Provosts for Academic Personnel.

VI. Consultation with Senior Managers

- **Michael Drake, President**
- **Michael Brown, Provost and Executive Vice President**
- **Nathan Brostrom, Executive Vice President and CFO**

Current Events: President Drake acknowledged the recent mass shootings in the United States and noted that UC remains committed to offering the full range of reproductive health services and support to its students, faculty, staff, and broader community. Provost Brown noted that the University has a role in meeting the challenges of a social era marked by change.

May Regents Meeting: The report on Mitigating Covid Impacts was received positively by the Regents, who appreciated hearing about the multi-faceted impacts of the pandemic on faculty and faculty's extra efforts during the pandemic to advance the University mission. The Provost has circulated the report to campus administrators for feedback on implementation process and resource implications.

Climate Crisis: President Drake said the University's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2025 is not a finishing point, but a waystation to a fossil free future.

Budget: The University is pleased with the multi-year funding agreement in the Governor's May budget, and is working with the Legislature on opportunities for additional one-time investments funded from the state budget surplus.

Ethnic Studies: Provost Brown joined a recent BOARS meeting to discuss the implications of new state legislation mandating an Ethnic Studies high school graduation requirement, and its possible interface with the UC/CSU A-G subject area requirements.

Master's Program Review: Provost Brown noted that he was disappointed with the recommendation of the Workgroup on Master's Degree Program Review to not transfer reviews to campuses; however, he was also encouraged by the Senate representatives' openness to an external review process managed at the campus level.

- Council members encouraged UC to increase support for campus mental health services in preparation for the ongoing effects of the pandemic on student mental health. These efforts should include crisis management training for faculty.
- Council members asked if the University would consider a greater than 4% faculty salary increase given 8% inflation. They also asked about the status of the recently proposed revisions to the Universitywide Police Policies and Administrative Procedures (the "Gold Book"), and how Gold Book policies would interact with the emerging recommendations from the systemwide Campus Safety Workgroup.
- President Drake acknowledged the challenging set of circumstances affecting student mental health. He said all campuses have robust mental health programs, and also plans in place for responding to various crises. He emphasized that the University is always looking for ways to increase the effectiveness of those programs and services, and that everyone has a role to play in community support and safety. CFO Brostrom added that the state budget includes funding for youth mental health services.
- The President noted that the UC Community Safety Plan will develop iteratively. He has directed a new workgroup led by the incoming Systemwide Director of Community Safety to standardize the Gold Book into UC's policy format. The workgroup will also review comments from the recent review of the Gold Book, the new UC Community Safety Plan, and other relevant policies in order to produce a standard policy that will go out for campus review.
- CFO Brostrom noted that the State budget compact will support opportunities for future years' faculty salary increases, and the University is exploring options for addressing the campus housing crisis.

VII. Revised Recommendations for Department Political Statements

○ Ty Alper, UCAF Chair

UCAF revised its Recommendations for Department Political Statements in response to comments received during the systemwide review. The recommendations address the freedom of campus academic departments to issue or endorse statements on political or controversial issues, and outline processes that will ensure their judicious and transparent use.

The UCAF letter articulates an overriding principle that departments should not be precluded from issuing or endorsing statements in the name of the department. UCAF consulted with both UC General Counsel and the relevant UC administrators to confirm that law and University policy permits departments to make statements on University-owned websites, as long as those statements do not take stands on electoral politics, so this principle does not change policy or allow something previously prohibited.

UCAF recommends that departments include a disclaimer with statements clarifying that the statement is not intended to represent the views of the University as a whole. It also recommends that departments develop bylaws that describe the process of deliberation and communication the department will use to develop and post a statement, define the unit voting on the statement, and solicit minority or opposition statements. UCAF offers a menu of options departments may choose from to describe whose views the statement represents. It recommends that departments consult with campus Committees on Academic Freedom when considering a statement on a controversial issue. UCAF is also reluctant about including the names of individual supporters with statements, as doing so may chill speech, strain the academic freedom of those who hold minority views, and also create a limited public forum that legally requires the publication of minority viewpoints.

- Council members expressed support for the revised recommendations. They noted that the cover letter should emphasize faculty free speech and academic freedom rights, and emphasize that the recommendations are not mandates and do not create a new policy. The cover letter should also acknowledge that the recommendation to develop bylaws is not intended to stifle such statements between now and when bylaws are written and approved.

ACTION: The recommendations will be distributed to division chairs, with copies to the President and Provost.

VIII. Continuing Discussion of Fully Online Undergraduate Degrees

Chair Horwitz and Vice Chair Cochran introduced a framework for decision-making around fully online undergraduate degrees. They noted that the 2021 systemwide Senate review of the report of the Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force offered three options: (1) prohibit fully remote undergraduate degree programs; (2) allow fully remote programs but require that they meet all ordinary expectations for a UC degree and full access to faculty, research experiences, and campus resources; and (3) allow fully remote programs that satisfy equivalent UC coursework expectations but not necessarily equivalent out-of-classroom opportunities.

The chair and vice chair asked Council to focus on issues that fall within the Senate's delegated authority related to courses, curriculum, and degrees, rather than on issues in the purview of the administration such as resources and tuition structure. They asked Council to consider the issue in term of four areas: online courses, online minors, online majors, and online degrees.

Chair Horwitz cited studies showing that pandemic online instruction has been accompanied by significant learning loss, student disengagement, and cheating. He noted that part of the value of a UC education derives from the rich in-person campus experience that allows students to engage with other students and professors, and resources like labs, libraries and performance spaces.

Chair Horwitz noted that in his view there is no compelling reason to limit the number of online courses or the modality of courses that constitute a minor. He also said online undergraduate majors could make sense in some fields, but that majors typically require electives or general education courses from units that may not offer the courses online. He noted that most UC competitors do not offer online degrees, and that fully online undergraduate degree programs offered at other universities are characterized by low completion rates and high rates of debt.

Chair Horwitz proposed that the Senate move slowly by examining outcomes from online minors and majors before considering a fully online degree. In the meantime, the Senate should take steps to close the loophole in Senate regulations that allows campuses to potentially create a fully

online degree program through individually-approved online courses. The loophole also allows students to potentially meet the 3 quarter (2 semester) residency requirement with online courses only. Closing this loophole would involve adding a requirement that students (both transfers and four-year students) complete one year of in-person campus residency to receive a degree. The one-year residency requirement would pause momentum toward fully online degrees.

- Individual Council members expressed support for a one-year in person residency requirement and for assessing outcomes from online minors and majors before considering a fully online degree. Several members spoke in favor of an unequivocal rejection of fully online degrees, while others noted that the Senate should permit academic units to experiment with “high-quality” fully online programs. Members agreed that a key driver of decisions about online courses, majors, minors and programs should be pedagogy and how well students learn.
- Members noted that online degrees could save campuses capital and space resources, but should not be used to respond to enrollment pressures. Members expressed concern that online degrees could create separate but unequal access to quality education and further disadvantage underrepresented students. An additional risk is that approval of even a handful of online degrees could encourage the legislature to ask UC to broaden online degrees to many additional fields.
- It was noted that tracking progress toward an online major or minor would be a complicated matter administratively.
- A member noted the potential for online courses, majors, and degrees to enable much higher course enrollments without a parallel increase to the number of faculty. The Senate should anchor the student-faculty ratio as a central component of UC quality.

ACTION: Council will discuss again in June.

IX. Reports from Division Chairs

Division chairs noted several issues of interest:

- Faculty, staff, and students are experiencing pandemic fatigue. Several campuses plan to reintroduce mask mandates in response to rising Covid case rates, and several are experiencing high rates of staff turnover. Individual divisions are seeking support for the crisis in employee and student housing availability and affordability, funding for seismic and capital renewal projects, and relief from problems with Oracle and other financial accounting software. Several divisions, including UCSC and UCLA, are constituting new Senate and joint committees to increase the faculty voice in discussions about climate and sustainability. Individual divisions are discussing new strategies for advancing graduate diversity and diversity on Senate committees, ensuring accountability around recommendations from program reviews; and responding to demands from non-Senate clinicians for access to Senate privileges.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm
Minutes prepared by Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director
Attest: Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Chair