UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA   **ACADEMIC SENATE**
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS
Friday, February 9, 2024

Meeting Minutes

I. Chair's announcements, agenda review, and updates
Kyaw Tha Paw U, UCACC Chair

- UCACC Chair Kyaw Tha Paw U shared information about an upcoming seminar on AI and cybersecurity hosted by Security Today magazine.
- Chair Paw U noted that AI companies have been contacting UC to offer special package deals, which upon further investigation turned out to be pricier than personal license deals.
- UCSC representative Zac Zimmer will be on the "Pedagogy and Innovation Frontiers" panel at the AI conference on February 29th. He will report back to UCACC at the next meeting. Zimmer is working to develop a humanities AI curriculum that will help to free faculty from the need to screen for plagiarism.
- A recent UCSF leadership retreat focused on AI. UCSF is using AI in labs, classes, to screen job applicants, and for development of training materials.
- Committee members discussed whether there was an interest in doing a systemwide survey to determine faculty priorities for software licenses? Professor Zimmer noted that the UCSC survey from a few years ago looked mainly at high performance and co-location needs (e.g., whether faculty need physical proximity to their servers.) The response rate to the survey was 18-20% (which was seen as a good rate). The following year, the VC-IT sent out a priorities questionnaire via the local office of institutional research and planning. Members noted that any survey should come from the faculty/Senate.
- Updates from other groups:
  - Research Data Backup System Steering Committee (Paw U) – The group has not met since the last UCACC meeting. A meeting is scheduled for this week.
  - CIO Council (Paw U) – The CIO Council met in January and February. The biggest topic is the cybersecurity plans for each location that must be submitted to UCOP by the end of April and then implemented within the year. These plans include inventories of IT assets, multi-factor authentication implementation, and end-point security programs.
  - IT Sourcing Committee (Wong) – No update

- *Action taken:* Meeting minutes from December 8, 2023, were approved.

II. Consultation with UCOP's Information Technology Services
Monte Ratzlaff, Cyber Risk Program Director and Interim Chief Information Security Officer

CIO Van Williams was unable to join the meeting, but Cyber Risk Program Director (and Interim Chief Information Security Officer) Monte Ratzlaff joined to provide updates from the Office of Information Technology Services on cyber security metrics and an upcoming digital risk presentation for the Board of Regents.

- CIO Council Cyber Security Metrics – update

Campus CISOs are working on developing more useful cyber security metrics that will be regularly shared with the Board of Regents to provide a consistent and clear picture of UC's cyber risk. A dashboard will use a "confidence level" metric and offer more detailed notes for different levels of scrutiny. The scope of assets included in the dashboard includes all university owned servers, desktops, laptops. It does not include "smart" appliances or utilities systems.

In addition, the March Regents' presentation will feature the chancellors of UCSD and UCSB – other campuses have appeared in front of the Regents already – talking about the cybersecurity programs at their campuses.

- Research Data Backup System Steering Committee

An RFP yielded some preliminary bids for data backup vendors. UC will make these services available as vetted options. The administration will not make anyone use the vendors, nor will funding be made available at this time.

III. Consultation with the Senate Leadership
Steven Cheung, Academic Council Vice Chair

Academic Senate Vice Chair Steven Cheung joined the meeting to update the committee on current issues facing the Academic Senate. Chair James Steintrager was at chancellor search committee meeting.

The January Board of Regents' meeting had several chaotic moments, the last of which was a protest against the Board's revoking of a "policy" that would have enabled employment opportunities for undocumented students. Since the federal government stopped accepting DACA applicants a few years ago, some current students are left out of the benefits provided by the program. A legal theory produced by UCLA said that UC, as a state agency, could provide job opportunities for undocumented students. It was based on a 1986 federal law that prohibited employment of undocumented individuals but didn't specifically mention states. After consultation with internal and external legal counsel, the administration concluded that would be too risky in terms of federal funding, lawsuits, and targeting of individuals. There are about 4,000 students systemwide who are impacted by this decision, and President Drake promised additional resources, initially of $7m, for support via experiential learning opportunities and other means. The policy suspension was upsetting for the students who came to the meeting, and the disruption went on so long that the rest of the meeting was suspended. This meant that the item on Senate Regulation 360.E., the on-campus experience requirement, was postponed.

Another contentious issue on the Regents' agenda was a hastily drafted Regents' policy to regulate political statements on university administrative websites. Cheung described that even experts in the field disagree about where to draw the line on the issue at the university. Some see the purpose of the policy as clearly establishing who speaks for the university, while others see it in terms of campus environment, or as an unspoken effort to target or silence Ethnic Studies departments and other units who have spoken out on political issues. Concepts of constitutionally protected free speech and academic freedom overlap but are not the same. The Senate's main concern was to have a proper systemwide Senate review, which is what is happening now (see agenda item V). In deciding whether to submit comments as a committee, UCACC members discussed whether the policy had anything to do with information technology. The group determined that it might fall to

local ITS departments to implement or assume responsibility and that there might also be cybersecurity consequences when faculty instead use non-authorized, unofficial platforms.

A question came up in discussion about the relation of the Regents' desire to have a policy to provide employment opportunities for undocumented students and the state's AB 540, which allows eligible students, including undocumented individuals, to be exempted from nonresident tuition and access state-based financial aid. The UCACC analyst investigated after the meeting but found no documentation connecting the two.

IV. Member/campus issues and discussion

UCACC members discussed AI and the use of artificial intelligence systems and then topics from their divisional committees and campuses.

- Duygu Tosun-Turgut (UCSF) gave an update from the UC AI Council, where she serves as the Senate liaison. A survey from the Council's subcommittee on transparency was sent to contacts across UC locations and departments to find out which AI systems are in use and for what purposes. The subcommittee on risk continues to gather information on what aspects of AI work – generative, predictive – should be considered when assessing risk and is working on building a decision-tree approach to determine level of risk of that activity. A keynote speaker from Microsoft joined the previous meeting to present on ChatGPT Live. The AI Council is discussing boundaries for engagement and the gap between user expectations and what the systems can provide.

- UC faculty are using AI for coding, gaming, pedagogy and course feedback. UCACC members discussed the value of simulations and other technology in helping to get ideas across. For example, simulations can help students to think statistically rather than focusing on the calculations. Students are cloning instructors, which can provide a revealing and useful feedback mechanism to understand what the students are getting.

- It's clear that AI can perpetuate cultural and gender-based biases. It also does not necessarily distinguish between silly and serious content.

Round Robin Campus Reports:

UC Berkeley's local committee is reviewing a report on the need for endpoint monitoring at UC Berkeley. The issue of alumni email will be resolved by offering graduates an alumni email address with reduced storage (than comes with their student account). In order to reduce the size of the campus Google account, members of the campus community are being asked to reduce their storage to under 100GB. Box storage will also decrease. Faculty would like more input into these decisions, which seem to be made unilaterally by the administration. With the loss in storage space from providers, the campus will likely lease more storage while deciding what to do next. A new CIO has been hired and will start soon.

UC Davis: The issue of student email accounts has been resolved and the local committee is now discussing issues around cybersecurity and risk, specifically to raise awareness of faculty about potential financial liability for security breaches. Risks and mitigations need to be communicated clearly. Student email accounts will sunset after 1-3 years. Graduate students will have more time and can get an extension through their advisor if needed. Emeriti have email accounts for life.

UC Merced has finally set up its Senate faculty advisory structure on IT that was postponed during pandemic. The chair of the new committee doesn't have a seat on the divisional council, but the members of the committee will represent their schools and sit on their school's executive committee.

UC Riverside's local committee is discussing issues of insurance and cost for computing and storage. In positive developments, the administration has been more communicative regarding data management and data storage needs and is proposing a tiered system-based amount and type of storage (cold, medium, hot) with an initial price tag of $7m. A 3-year deal was reached with Google cloud system.

UC San Diego's administration is piloting TritonGPT, a tool for finding university resources and generating and editing content that interacts with the Canvas learning management system. Feedback has been positive so far. There is a large investment in hardware.

UC San Francisco restricts employees from taking UC computers outside of the US, and even outside of the state. This can pose challenges for international graduate students and remote work. UCSF is engaging in conversations about licensing technology from vendors versus local work. This may stem from a recent proposal for an initial investment for hardware to boost the internal computing capacity. As noted earlier in the meeting, UCSF is becoming a heavy user of AI systems for medical practices, training, and patient follow-up decisions.

UC Santa Barbara's local committee has not met yet this quarter. With no one on the faculty IT committee experienced in AI issues, the campus may maybe establish separate AI group. The library committee is working on data storage issues and is holding an Open Forum on Data Management in a couple of weeks.

UC Santa Cruz continues to discuss data storage. Professor Zimmer is co-facilitating a joint faculty/administration seminar on Teaching and Learning with AI. The campus is dealing with a new automated license plate reader policy that is causing concerns about privacy and data storage. UCACC's student representative, who is from UCSC, noted that at UCSC and the other campuses, wider use of lecture capture requires more data storage.

The ***Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA)*** has spent much of its time talking about the next negotiations with the graduate student union. The administration is aware of the lack of transparency in the last round and taking steps to be more communicative. The APC Workgroup on the Future of Doctoral Education released a preliminary report with recommendations and the hope is that the final report will have more specific actions and an accountability structure. CCGA reviews new graduate degrees and schools and UCSD has proposed a new School of Computing, Information, and Data Science.

Members noted that campuses have their own committees on the future of graduate education. One question is whether more professional workers will be hired to replace graduate students as teaching and research assistants.

V. Systemwide Items Under Review

- Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites

Action: Two committee members, Ilya Brookwell and Zac Zimmer will start a draft response for UCACC that includes the relevance of information technology (e.g., the IT resources that would potentially be spent to enforce the policy), the targeting of specific units and concern about curriculum issues, and its potential chilling effect.

UCACC will not comment on the other systemwide review items.

Meeting participants:
Kyaw Tha Paw U (Chair), Jenson Wong (Vice Chair), John Kubiatowicz (Berkeley), Cristiana Drake (Davis), Paul Gershon (Irvine), Matthew Fisher (UCLA), Emily Jane McTavish (Merced), Ilya Brookwell (Riverside), Barry Grant (San Diego), Duygu Tosun-Turgut (San Francisco), Frank Brown (Santa Barbara), Zac Zimmer (Santa Cruz), Steven Cheung (Academic Council Vice Chair), James Bisley (CCGA Vice Chair), Monte Ratzlaff (Cyber-Risk Program Manager), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst)