UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS
Thursday, October 14, 2021

Meeting Minutes

I. Consultation with the Senate Leadership
Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Chair

The meeting began with Academic Council Chair Robert Horwitz' update on current issues facing the Academic Senate and the university.

Admissions test evaluation: An Academic Senate study group has recommended to UC President Michael Drake that the Smarter Balanced assessment not be used in the UC undergraduate admissions process. The test is currently used in California public schools.

Mitigating Covid-19 impacts on faculty careers: The recommendations of a working group on mitigating Covid-19 impacts on faculty careers will be sent to campuses early next week. The group was co-chaired by Academic Council Chair Horwitz and UC Davis Provost and EVC Mary Croughan. The recommendations are meant as guidance for personnel processes for the next few years. When evaluating faculty for advancement, a key concept is "achievements relative to opportunity." There are also recommendations for restarting research using targeted grants or accommodations for teaching.

Covid-19 vaccination rates are very high on campuses – some up to 90%. While there have been instances of infection, no hospitalizations have been reported.

Chair's remarks at Regents: The Board of Regents met in late September. In his remarks, Chair Horwitz focused on preserving the excellence of UC and factors that work against it such as lagging faculty salaries, increased administrative burdens, declining student-faculty ratios, and violations of academic integrity via websites such as Chegg and Course Hero. Chair Horwitz' remarks aligned well with comments made by Board of Regents Chair Cecilia Estolano, including the importance of graduate education.

Transfer: The Regents' Academic & Student Affairs Committee is focused on transfer, which has become of key interest to the California legislature. UC abides by an MOU from a few years ago that requires the university to admit one transfer student for every two freshman. A new law, AB 928, while well-intended, may have adverse outcomes for student success. The Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) will try to guide the implementation of AB 928 so that transfer students arrive at UC prepared in their major.

Capital planning: The Regents' Finance and Capital Committee approved UC Santa Cruz's long-range development plan, which will increase housing. The UC Berkeley plan to build housing on the People's Park site was also approved. A seismic safety inventory shows 500 buildings in the system need renovation, with an estimated price tag of $20 billion. Only a fraction of that funding has been allocated.

Increasing student enrollment at UC: The Regents approved increasing enrollment capacity systemwide by 20,000 students by 2030, based on a "Growing back with Equity" report. Campuses will have different ways of accomplishing growth, via methods such as expanding summer sessions, developing satellite campuses, dual enrollment, and online courses.

Non-resident enrollment: All campuses will have to abide by an agreement to keep enrollment of non-resident students at a maximum of 18% of the total. Berkeley, LA, and San Diego will have a few years to cut the non-resident student population to that level. The lost funding will be backfilled by the State on an annual basis.

Unit 18 Lecturers: Contract negotiations between UC and Unit 18 Lecturers have stalled. The Academic Council has re-endorsed the Council letter of 2020 to then-UC President Janet Napolitano. The situation is complicated by a California Senate bill (1550) that allows faculty who are currently represented by a union to retain that representation even if UC moves their position into the Academic Senate.

Political statements on departmental websites: The Academic Council is discussing guidance for academic departments that post political statements on their websites, and whether a disclaimer could be used to clarify that these are not positions of the university as an institution.

The Senate Chair and Vice Chair are working with the UC administration on a variety of issues:
- Problems with UC retirement system functionality and staffing shortages that are causing errors and frustration for retirees.
- Approval of new Master's degree programs: the Provost has proposed changing the process for new self-supporting master's degree programs to be campus-based rather than undergoing a systemwide review.
- Problems with financial accounting systems at Merced and San Diego.
- A report from the Regents Special Committee on Innovation Transfer and Entrepreneurship that includes recommendations for recognition of faculty who produce patents or start-up companies.
- Institutional solutions for fighting the "tutoring" websites that harm academic integrity and misuse faculty intellectual property.

II. Consultation with UCOP's Information Technology Services
Van Williams, Vice President, UC Chief Information Officer
Monte Ratzlaff, Cyber-Risk Program Manager
Robert Smith, Systemwide IT Policy Director
Hoyt Sze, Managing Counsel, UC Legal

1. Introduction of new UC CIO
UC's new Vice President and Chief Information Officer Van Williams joined the committee and provided information on his background and his initial thoughts for the role. CIO Williams said that President Drake had given him three priorities: cybersecurity, cybersecurity, and cybersecurity.

2. Policy updates

The next IT policy up for review is IS-11, which will be retired. The Account and Authentication Management Standard (AAMS), which had been part of IS-11, will be updated. This will be a relatively small undertaking, with a more complete overhaul in a few years. UCACC Chair Matt Bishop is on the AAMS workgroup, and other UCACC members are invited to join as well. Policy Manager Robert Smith will provide regular updates at UCACC meetings.

3. Data breach and response update

Hoyt Sze, Managing Council from UC Legal, joined the meeting to provide an update on UC's response to the significant data security violation known as the "Accellion breach." The attack occurred in December, notice was provided to UC in late March, and in April and May general notifications were sent to all students, employees and their dependents, and retirees. Additional outreach occurred in the summer to individuals personally impacted. UC has offered a year of identity and credit monitoring to the university community, including dependents. The UC Board of Regents retained San Francisco-based international law firm Orrick to lead the investigation of the incident and the California Attorney General's office was notified. Orrick has engaged vendors to assist in the investigation. UC is the subject of several lawsuits related to the data breach.

Orrick is expected to release a report with findings and recommendations shortly. A draft report was viewed by CIOs and CISOs, and their responses will be incorporated into a final report. Although it is a confidential document, some part of the report will be made public.

UCACC members wanted to know if the credit and identity monitoring offered by UC would be extended beyond one year. Ideas recommended by UCSD are being considered, including corrective actions and oversight groups.

UCACC members noted that there is tremendous frustration among faculty right now, and that UC needed to show it was working on best practices and appropriate oversight. Often the cause of a breach is individual behavior, but there are ways to strengthen security at a higher level. UCACC members asked about security tokens and other means of authentication that could be supported at scale. UCACC wants to know what data is maintained at OP and what the security measures are. Chair Bishop noted the importance of communication with faculty and keeping faculty fully informed about data security.

CIO Williams said that UCOP is conducting a review of data security using a consultant, the firm Baker Tilley. He is requesting faculty volunteers to be interview subjects as part of the review. Erith Jaffe-Berg, UCACC's CCGA representative, volunteered to participate.

Sze noted that UCSD Health was recently the target of a breach that began with phishing and resulted in the harvesting of Outlook email inboxes. UC's response follows the same protocols as the Accellion case, including retaining Orrick, hiring of sub-contractors, root cause analysis, interviews, and document review. There are now several lawsuits related to that event. Any recommendations coming out of the investigation will be shared with all UC medical centers.

While security is only as strong as the weakest link, there are technological means available to help. UCACC would like to understand the data governance and security risks at the systemwide level, from the UCOP perspective and also around major data sets at the campuses.

III. Chair's Announcements, Introductions, About UCACC
Matt Bishop, UCACC Chair

Announcements
UCACC is without a vice chair. Any current members who are interested in stepping into that role, which would mean becoming the chair of UCACC next year, should send a message to Matt Bishop and/or committee analyst Joanne Miller (joanne.miller@ucop.edu). The UCACC chair is an ex-officio member of the systemwide IT Leadership Council (ITLC) and the Cyber-Risk Governing Committee and serves a key shared-governance role as liaison with the OP and systemwide administration in all IT-related matters.

Past UCACC topics and priorities for the year
- Accellion breach and how to improve UC's IT security going forward. Chair Bishop proposed using the UCSD CAIT letter as a basis for a letter to UCOP. The committee will discuss how to proceed in December.

- Software procurement, including further investigation into whether there are benefits to systemwide licenses managed by UCOP. Some campuses are currently looking in to standards for central- versus departmental-based purchases.

- Vendor risk assessments that are required prior to the installation of any new technology. Committee members want to know whether the results can that be shared systemwide.

- Funding agency requirements around computer security. Researchers would like to see information sharing regarding how the other campuses are satisfying new requirements.

- Addressing frustrations with UCPath and the errors made in the HR system transition. The new financial accounting system at UCSD and UC Merced is causing much distress, especially at Merced. The Academic Council is aware of the situation and is raising the alarm with the UC President.

ACTION: Members are asked to raise the topic of **centralized (systemwide) IT purchasing** in their local committee meetings. UCACC will try to generate a list of common software purchases (or licenses).

IV. Member/campus issues – Round Robin

UC Berkeley: Multi-factor authentication is still a problem for some faculty. A "call me" option was thought to be a way to try to reach all levels of technological comfort, but is being discontinued. Other simple options are under consideration. Managing security risks is part of a greater faculty concern about increased administrative burdens.

UC Davis: Topics for the local committee include enforcing the imminent requirement for Duo authentication for email services for faculty and streamlining the vendor risk assessment process while still appropriately assessing risk.

UC Irvine: The local committee has not met yet. On the campus, classes are back to in-person, but many of the tools used in remote teaching are still in place. UCI is offering flexibility in teaching modes. For example, only one hour of a three hour course is required to be held in person. Some instructors find wearing masks to be challenging, while students and others are concerned about physical distancing and lack of airflow in congested classes.

UCLA: When the UCLA local committee meets next week, one topic will be the re-alignment of campus IT that began last year under a new CIO. The path toward centralization has been rocky. UCLA has two IT environments, one for the main campus one for the health system, which is challenging for people who work on both sides. The troublesome new financial system causing problems at UCSD and Merced is supposed to be rolled out at UCLA, but it might be on hold.

UC Merced: UC Merced's primary concern right now is problems with a new financial accounting system and a lack of training and support. It is severely impacting researchers' ability to monitor their funding. Faculty are not pleased with the burdensome process chosen by UCM to verify the commencement of academic activity for the purpose of complying with federal financial aid rules. (This was discussed by UCACC last February.)

UC Riverside: The UCR Academic Senate is considering dividing the committee on Library and Information Technology, which was merged in 2013. The committee is discussing technology to support remote attendance in classrooms and the recent news that Google's education product pricing model is changing to impose quotas on free storage.

UC San Diego: UCSD's Committee on Academic Information and Technology (CAIT) wrote a letter to the UCSD Academic Senate asking for specific responses to the Accellion breach, including the establishment of an expert panel to oversee UC's recovery and make recommendations for IT security in the future. UCSD is also concerned with the drive to centralize IT support, but more interested in insuring proper data security.

UC Santa Barbara: The two primary issues this quarter are transitioning course websites to Canvas and research data preservation. Questions around preservation include whether to centralize or store data within individual departments or units.

UC Santa Cruz: The local committee has already met twice. With Van Williams hired at UCOP, the campus will need to search for a new VC for IT. There are a couple of initiatives started by Williams that are in process and will need attention, including keeping up the staffing level.

CCGA: The Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs is focused on proposal by UCOP to devolve review of self-supporting graduate programs to the campus level. CCGA has been a key part of these new program reviews and the Academic Senate believes that systemwide review is crucial.

V. Under Review Items
UCACC will not comment on any of the systemwide items currently under review.

Meeting adjourned: 1:30pm
Meeting minutes drafted by: Joanne Miller
[Attest: Matt Bishop, UCACC Chair]

Meeting Participants:
Members: Matt Bishop (Chair, UCD), Avideh Zakhor (Berkeley), Petr Janata (Davis), Nader Bagherzadeh (Irvine), Alex Bui (UCLA), Emily Jane McTavish (Merced), Manu Sridharan (Riverside), Avi Yagil (UCSD), Francis Macdonald (UCSB, alternate), Peter Alvaro (UCSC), Erith Jaffe-Berg (CCGA representative), Robert Horwitz (Academic Council Chair)

Consultants, Guests, Staff: Van Williams (Vice President, UC Chief Information Officer), Robert Smith (Systemwide IT Policy Officer), Monte Ratzlaff (Cyber-Risk Program Manager). Hoyt Sze (Managing Counsel, UC Legal), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst)