

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Meeting Minutes

I. Announcements, agenda review, approval of meeting minutes from last meeting*David Robinowitz, UCACC Chair*

- Quick round-robin check-in
- Update on UCACC activities since last meeting (comments on Items Under Review)

Action: Meeting minutes from February 11, 2021 were approved.

II. UCACC Member Reports – Campus and Liaison Representatives

UC Davis: The local committee is discussing security analysis of software vendors and the Accellion breach. The SolarWinds cyberattack prompted the campus administration to look into stronger security measures for internal systems. UC Davis faculty have long been opposed to any monitoring of communications, and will watch closely any changes that are made. The local IT committee is also requesting guidelines around what happens to the data on faculty members' computers and systems when they die.

UC Irvine: The local committee is discussing the Accellion breach and follow-up messages encouraging everyone to sign up for Experian protection. The Office of Information Technology gave a presentation on tech support for return to campus, including classroom upgrades that were done in the past year. New tools are being integrated into Canvas and Zoom is being upgraded.

UCLA: The revamping of UCLA's IT structure and slowing of software procurement as cyber security and contractual issues are hammered out has created other issues.

UC Merced: Faculty have been asked to stop using unapproved third party technology out of concerns about overwhelming students with too many tools, including those that potentially do not provide ADA considerations. But the procurement process only offers approvals for purchases, which leaves out open access acquisitions. Merced's IT committee and technology-heavy departments are engaged in discussions of the issues and building lists for both approved and discouraged software.

UC Riverside: The Accellion breach is at the top of mind for many faculty and staff. Budget cuts at UC Riverside resulted in the cutting of IT positions, which means there are big delays in technical support. The campus is adding audio/video equipment to classrooms to facilitate remote or hybrid learning. The search for a new Chief Information Officer continues.

UC San Diego: UCSD's local committee is discussing intellectual property related to online courses. Faculty who have been paid to create online material sign a contract that gives all IP rights to UC.

UC San Francisco: UCSF is taking the opportunity to do improve the quality of health care delivery, including utilizing new technologies. Preclinical medical students are using a simulation center on the main campus since the sessions cannot yet be held in person. Enterprising faculty have put together courses using simulation combined with discussion on Zoom.

UC Santa Barbara: UCSB's CIO Matt Hall moved to the University of Central Florida. UCSB is one of the last campuses using the Moodle course management system, but is in the process of moving to Canvas, which is used by most other campuses. The local committee is discussing cyber-security and other issues similar to the other

campuses. UCSB is now planning for 100% capacity in fall, inside, with masks on. UCSB also took advantage of Covid to upgrade classrooms and wifi reach.

UC Santa Cruz: The Accellion breach and file access after the death of a faculty member have also been discussed by UCSC's local committee. Faculty want to know what teaching resources are available to them. Some campuses have Centers for Teaching & Learning, but UCSC has a big spreadsheet. The Information Technology Services Division hired a new Chief Experience Officer ("CXO") who will oversee the redesign of the campus websites. The administration wants to make sure there is faculty buy-in for the changes, but there have been challenges getting Senate input.

UCOLASC (Committee on Libraries and Scholarly Communication): UCACC ex-officio member Mimi Tarn (UCOLASC Vice Chair) reported that one of UCOLASC's primary topics was the Elsevier deal that was announced in March. The pioneering open access agreement offers campus subvention for fees. The UC Libraries are continuing to work with more publishers on similar agreements.

CCGA (Coordinating Council on Graduate Affairs): Ex-officio member Andrea Kasko (CCGA Vice Chair) reported that CCGA has been looking into Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDPs) and has formed a subcommittee with UCPB to focus on costs and fiscal oversight. These programs are typically professional master's degrees in areas such as data sciences, applied chemistry, business, and engineering. There are also some newer dual-degree program proposals with other universities.

UCEP (Committee on Educational Policy): Ex-officio member Dan Potter reported that UCEP is discussing "first of its kind" online programs, including proposals for fully online programs. The Chegg and Course Hero websites are also big topics of discussion.

III. Consultation with UCOP's Information Technology Services

Mark Cianca, Interim Vice President, UC Chief Information Officer

David Rusting, Chief Information Security Officer

Robert Smith, Systemwide IT Policy Director

Marci Copeland, Associate Director Systemwide Export Controls

Monte Ratzlaff, Cyber-Risk Program Manager

Policy update (Robert Smith)

The IT Recovery Policy (IS-12) received nearly 100 comments in the formal systemwide review, with no serious opposition. Comments were entered into a table with actions taken, notes, and status recorded. Presidential approval is expected in June, and rollout and training will occur through November. The IT policy staff is working on an FAQ and visual aid to accompany the policy.

Next in the policy review queue is the Electronic Communications Policy, which will start a lightweight update at end of 2021. Stakeholders will convene to update elements of the policy regarding faculty, security, privacy, and other legal issues. The process will align with the academic calendar.

Export Control update (Marci Copeland)

Federal agencies maintain an "entity list" of supercomputing centers that fall under export control rules. Generally speaking, entities are added to this list based on involvement in activities that are contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the U.S. Several widely used supercomputing centers have been added to the list, and researchers need to be aware. There may be additional cautions and/or processes required for working with these entities. Vice Chancellors for Research will receive alerts, but the people at UC who are most likely to know if these centers are being used are the faculty themselves. Researchers and research community members who become aware of plans to work with the supercomputing centers on the entity list should contact their location Export Control Officer for a consultation.

UCACC members offered some suggestions for communication with faculty, including group educational activities hosted by campus data centers (or similar organizations) that focus on multiple aspects of export control, to put the situation in context.

Update on Cyber-Risk Working Group (Mark Cianca)

UCACC learned about the core recommendations of the Cyber-Risk Working Group at an earlier meeting. Work on Research Data Protection and the RFP for a systemwide backup service has been postponed due to the current cyberattack. A group of subject-matter experts selected by CIOs and others will convene in late May.

Accellion Cyberattack (David Rusting)

UC is currently investigating the impact of the Accellion cyberattack, which was a global event. Personally identifiable information (PII) was stolen, and UC strongly encourages everyone in the community to sign up with Experian for fraud alerts. UC is offering the Experian coverage broadly to include beneficiaries and dependents whose PII may have been included in the attack via centralized UC systems. This attack was apparently worse than the recent SolarWinds incident. With Solar Winds, the university was able to quickly respond and mediate. Accellion was a targeted attack on a service used for transferring sensitive data. Supply chain attacks have increased and the issue is being addressed in the industry as well as the federal level.

UCACC members discussed the reputational impact of the cyberattck on UC and the university's general risk tolerance. Faculty are often limited in the technology they are permitted to use due to security concerns. Like others impacted by the Accellion attack, faculty want to know about the company's liability. There is cybersecurity insurance for catastrophic events, and vendors are supposed to be responsible for downstream events. The paramount issue for the university is continuity. This type of risk situation – including mitigation – is addressed in part by IT policies such as IS-3.

III. Systemwide Items Under Review

UCACC will not comment on any of the items currently under review.

IV. Academic Senate Leadership Update

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Chair

Academic Council Chair Mary Gauvain joined the meeting to provide updates on current issues of concern in the Academic Senate.

Fall reopening plans – The Academic Council is considering issuing systemwide guidelines for campus re-openings that are at a high level, mainly about process and the inclusion of faculty in meaningful ways. [Note: Since this meeting, guidelines have been sent:

<https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/reports/senate-recommendations-fall-reopening.pdf>]

Accellion Breach – The recent data breach may have affected beneficiaries who are included in UCPath. The Experian offer is for all who may have been affected.

UC Health Affiliations – UC Health's affiliations with religious-based entities is being questioned again, and will be discussed at an upcoming Regents meeting.

Remote instruction survey – In the spring, after the Covid-19 pandemic forced the university into remote learning, the Academic Senate disseminated a survey on remote instruction. An updated survey will be sent soon, and all instructors are requested to fill it out.

In discussion, the group talked about a vaccine mandate and whether UC would institute one. For students, it can be done through registration, but it is less clear how to regulate a vaccination mandate for faculty and staff. In addition, some staff can work from home (such as IT), while some cannot (e.g., building maintenance).

Chair Gauvain expressed her appreciation for the pivoting and working outside of normal bounds that faculty have done during the pandemic.

VI. Online Learning and Academic Computing Tools for Remote and Hybrid Teaching (and More)

Guest: Michael Dennin, Vice Provost, UC Irvine

Michael Dennin is the UC Irvine Vice Provost of Teaching and Learning and Dean, Division of Undergraduate Education. He discussed online learning in general and touched on some of the outstanding questions that have come up in UCACC meetings, including online proctoring of exams; attestation for student attendance; technological limitation to video instruction; ownership and preservation of online content; and protection of student privacy.

VP Dennin advises faculty to try not to think in terms of online versus in-person, but rather to think of the technology available and how it can impact teaching, for better or worse. Prior to this year, most faculty had never taught online, and in fact many were against it. But faculty need to be as involved in remote teaching issues as the Regents, the local administration, and UCOP. ILTI is one such example. In its numerous iterations faculty are still not being heard. Another example is Piazza, a popular program that was integrated into campus systems. When Piazza announced that the company was going to start selling student data, the university negotiated for more time and developed a solution. Faculty have to engage.

In terms of “hybrid,” Dennin noted that summer term has been partially online for years now. It is possible to give faculty – and students – flexibility while maintaining quality and equity. Technology can help to do that. Students may not be able to physically be on campus, and should be able to apply for accommodation using a standard set of criteria.

Dennin is a strong proponent of information sharing and believes that communities should meet locally and across campuses to discuss best practices and to find out whether there are tools or systems that could be used systemwide. He said that UCI leverages department meetings and Academic Senate meetings to share this type of information.

Dennin also suggested that educational software be supported in the same way as library resources, as a systemwide resource.

Group discussion touched on the needs of faculty to manage cheating and attendance in remote courses. These are issues that manifest differently in different fields and are addressed in different ways by location.

VII. UCACC Discussion of Online Learning Issues from the Year

All campuses have “keep learning” or “return to learn” initiatives and resources. Some are administration-led and others are faculty-driven. UCACC members noted that at some point in the near future, the emphasis will shift away from teaching and to allowing faculty to catch up on their research. It was noted that most faculty are not inspired by the effectiveness of remote teaching. However, a mixed mode of instruction may be desirable in certain situations, depending on the discipline and student population. Planning for alternative methods of instruction will need to be formalized at the campus level.

Meeting notes drafted by: Joanne Miller, Committee Analyst
Attest: David Robinowitz, UCACC Chair

Meeting participants:

Members: David Robinowitz (Chair, UCSF), Susan Cochran, (Vice Chair and UCLA), Matt Bishop (Davis), Nader Bagherzadeh (Irvine), Emily Jane McTavish (Merced), Manu Sridharan (Riverside), Avi Yagil (UCSD), Jenson Wong (UCSF), James Frew (UCSB), Leila Takayama (UCSC), Andrea Kasko (CCGA representative),

Daniel Potter (UCEP representative), Mimi (Derjung) Tarn (UCOLASC Representative), Mary Gouvain (Academic Council Chair), Robert Horwitz (Academic Council Vice Chair)

Consultants, Guests, Staff: Mark Cianca (Interim Vice President, UC Chief Information Officer), David Rusting (Chief Information Security Officer), Robert Smith (Systemwide IT Policy Officer), Marci Copeland (Associate Director Systemwide Export Controls), Monte Ratzlaff, Cyber-Risk Program Manager). Michael Dennin (Vice Provost, UC Irvine), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst)