



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Friday, April 25, 2025

Meeting Minutes

**I. Chair's Announcements, Approval of Minutes, Discussion**

Chair Jenson Wong reiterated the importance of UCACC in information sharing and bringing the voice of the faculty to shared governance.

- **Draft EDR Questions for FAQ**

The CIOs already have a draft FAQ.

UCSC's CIT recently received a list of answers for its draft FAQ questions from the administration.

It was noted that although there are concerns about the final stages of the campus information security plan implementation, they can probably be addressed with additional communication, oversight, and proper guardrails. UC still needs to responsibly secure the data that runs through the networks; the potential impact to the system may be worse without ERD than with.

The consensus was that a solid systemwide FAQ would be beneficial.

- **Action:** UCACC approved the meeting minutes from February 28, 2025.

**II. Consultation with UCOP - Information Technology Services**

*Van Williams, Vice President, UC Chief Information Officer*

*Monte Ratzlaff, Chief Information Security Officer*

- **Regents update, cybersecurity insurance update**

*Regents:* The ITS presentation to the Regents was moved from live to a written update. UC has followed up with all 37 of the actions that consultants recommended in the wake of the 2020 Accellion data breach. These include efforts around AI governance, security controls, updating the cyber-incident escalation protocol, quarterly meetings of chancellors and campus security administrators, and engagement of the faculty through UCACC. The update also included metrics from all locations and information on the direct deposit fraud that led to additional MFA controls for UC Path.

*Insurance:* CISO Monte Ratzlaff recently met with insurers, who found improvement in UC's "cybersecurity risk posture." This is partly due to progress on the goals outlined in President Drake's letter, especially EDR deployment and securing internet-facing networks. A positive assessment from insurers will potentially stabilize costs and improving coverage.

- **May deadline for Information Security Management Plans**

UCACC members reported that faculty on their campuses were uncomfortable with the idea of EDR being used as a surveillance tool given the current federal administration, and that assurances about data security were needed. Some faculty are even taking the “precaution” of moving their work to personal computers and off the campus network. More effort is needed to get the word out to all campus constituents. Tying communication about cybersecurity to IS-3 and the ECP would be appreciated by faculty who are familiar with the policies. The EDR rollout is seen as mandated by UCOP, which also controls the vendor contract and manages the data. Lack of information seems to be breeding fear.

Specific faculty concerns may impact a relatively small pool – e.g., those doing high-performance computing or using Unix systems. Exception requests should go through campus protocols; they can be escalated to the Office of the President if needed after following the local process. UCACC members asked about planning for when the current Trellix (EDR) license expires. A systemwide group is running an RFP and will negotiate with potential vendors. Other than cost, the key points will be technical requirements and data privacy. A rollout plan will take about a year.

In addition to a systemwide publicly available FAQ, UCACC members requested examples of breaches that *would have been* prevented or *were* prevented by EDR.

Related to data security, UCACC members from health center campuses brought up “ambient scribes,” which listen to and track encounters between patients and health care providers. All vendors go through risk assessments and must comply with UC requirements for data, which must stay within UC and cannot be used to train models.

- **Research Data workgroup**

A systemwide workgroup has begun meeting to discuss new requirements for information security from federal agencies, including NIST 800-171, DoD’s CMMC (Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification), National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM)-33, and NIH requirements. The UC group is developing a charter and will report on location compliance plans and options for collaboration and resource sharing in September. UC Berkeley and UCSD have environments in place that comply with the federal mandates. Compliance accountability will be local.

**Action:** UCACC will find out if a faculty representative can join the workgroup.

- **Costs**

CIO Williams noted the high cost of cybersecurity and interest in reviewing the financial obligations of IT services. One point where economies of scale could be achieved is in streamlining supported systems and software. In addition to consolidating funding, another benefit might be more consistency across locations and over time. Storage space for digital assets may also be an area where sharing resources would be beneficial.

### **III. Senate Leadership Updates**

Academic Council Chair Steven Cheung and Vice Chair Ahmet Palazoglu joined the meeting to provide updates on current issues facing the Academic Senate.

*Assembly meeting:* Susannah Scott was confirmed as the vice chair elect of the systemwide Senate. The BOARS Bylaw will be updated to incorporate expectations of consultation with K-12 and State Board of Education for items that relate to admissions. An additional requirement for Ethnic Studies for freshman admission to UC was not approved by the Assembly. Funding for the new California high school graduation requirement has not materialized. The Assembly issued a statement in defense of the university that was sent to President Drake and posted on the Senate website.

*Workgroup to review faculty discipline policies and procedures:* The Regents asked for a joint administrative-faculty group to review P&T (privilege and tenure) policies and procedures, including the timeliness of the process across the system. The workgroup's draft report will be presented to the Board of Regents at the May meeting.

*International student visa cancellations:* Approximate 150 UC students have had their visas revoked. The Academic Senate issued a statement about options that may be available, including temporary withdrawal or remote courses. Students are encouraged to work with their advisors.

*Hiring:* A hiring freeze was announced at the March Regents' meeting, effective March 31<sup>st</sup>. Offers made prior to that date will be honored, and exceptions will be available. Stand-alone DEI statements for new hires was eliminated.

*Student Health Services financial challenges:* SHIP – the Student Health Insurance Plan – is facing financial challenges. To remedy and provide better services, EVC for UC Health David Rubin was tasked with assessing third-party billing options. Electronic records for SHIP are different from EPIC, the software used by medical providers, and conversion is expensive. Relatedly, it was determined that funding to support behavioral services is with the county. Unfortunately, all of this means that SHIP premiums will increase.

*UC Adaptations to Disruptions (UCAD):* The Academic Council formed a task force composed of systemwide committee chairs and divisional chairs to address the current political situation for the university. The task force will consult closely with the administration and will focus on 4 areas: restructuring of academic programs, resizing of programs and workforce, recalibration of growth objectives, and realignment of funding sources. The group is meeting weekly and will deliver a report in June.

UCACC members asked about the UC EDR mandate and the need for both systemwide and campus privacy and information security boards and accountability for data security. The 2013 report of the UC Privacy and Information Security Steering Committee ("PISI") was referenced.

#### **IV. Reports from other committees**

- UC Advocacy Network (Aatmi Mehta, UCLA undergraduate student)

Aatmi Mehta, UCACC's undergraduate student representative, joined the UC Advocacy Network trip to Washington DC to talk to legislators to advocate on behalf of the university for NIH funding, Pell Grants and more. It was noted that there will also be losses to UC through state budget cuts, and that lawmakers may be more receptive to students than to faculty.

- UC AI Council update (Duygu Tosun-Turgut)

UCSF Tosun-Turgut referenced a recent executive order on "Advancing artificial intelligence education for American youth," which doesn't necessarily touch higher education, but has related

issues nonetheless. She noted that additional guidance and training would help speed up the adoption of health AI tools. The UC AI Council is looking at transparency, especially in health-related fields, and how to make informed decisions when there is often insufficient information from AI vendors. Assessment of clinical translational tools, which can impact communication with patients, some of whom have lack of English, can be hindered by lack of transparency. The AI Council's Assessment group is focusing on AI-powered chatbots.

Each campus has its own approach to dealing with generative AI. UCSF has its own system that doesn't share information with ChatGPT. ChatGPT is currently offering two months of its "Plus" service free to students for a limited time. UC Riverside is focused on adoption and dissemination. At UC Berkeley, the Senate chair disseminated a proposal for comment regarding IT contracts with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties. The IT committee noted that faculty had concerns, but it would be safer to use a system with UC controls versus a free version.

- Faculty AI Workgroup update (Lisa Yeo)

The Faculty AI Workgroup split into four subgroups to develop overarching principles in areas of instruction, research, admissions, and data stewardship. Each group will draft a subsection of the workgroup's report. The report will emphasize faculty agency, transparency, and shared decision-making. Its recommendations and guidance will be at a fairly high level and will seek to be inclusive.

## **V. Member/Campus Issues and Committee Round-Robin**

UC Merced: The EDR mandate has caught some people off-guard, but the priority for rollout is staff and administration. New computers will arrive with the software already installed.

UCLA: This year the local committee focused on defining itself and reviewing its charge. Following a breakdown in communication with the CIO's office, the group will try more of a liaison model where members sit on various IT groups.

UC Irvine: The campus has woken up to the EDR issue, with a scathing letter from the UCI faculty association to the campus community. There will be a town hall on May 1<sup>st</sup>. All new PCs will have Trellix pre-installed while existing computers will have the software deployed remotely.

UC Davis: The Academic Senate's Committee on Information Technology is the only convening IT governance committee at UC Davis. There is no privacy committee. No one outside of IT has seen the campus' information security management plan. UC Davis faculty feel that the proposed EDR rollout violates the UC Electronic Communication Policy (ECP) in allowing remote access without consent. There has to be an appeals process for when ECP has been violated.

UC Riverside: In contrast to UC Davis, Riverside has a proliferation of functioning IT committees. The CIO attends the Senate committee meetings to provide updates and share information. The Senate IT committee chair serves on the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate as well as the IT Strategy Council, composed of high-level administrators, including the provost. Yet communication is still a challenge.

UC Berkeley: The campus has accomplished approximately 70% deployment by adding EDR to its default software package. But as awareness has been raised so have worries. EDR should be thought of as an advanced virus checker; it looks at metadata, not actual data. An FAQ with real answers is

very important and will hopefully assuage concerns. Stories about how EDR would've helped in a given situation will be useful. Regarding IT governance, the local committee (CIT) chair serves on several administrative committees. CIT is reviewing proposals for infrastructure improvements, budget, etc., including NASA-Ames site use. It is also focused on the lack of data storage and finding solutions. CIT's draft letter to the Berkeley Senate leaders was shared with UCACC members. There are multiple considerations, including adhering to grant requirements for data management and the ability to transition data ownership when needed.

UC Santa Cruz: EDR rollout has begun. The CIO will present at a Senate meeting. There are concerns about limiting MFA authentication options to smartphone only. Another concern is the new automated license plate reader, for which data is being retained for a couple of months, although the reason is not clear. Other campuses use license plate readers as well.

UC San Francisco: For data storage, each faculty member is provided with 5 terabytes as default. When someone leaves the university, the supervisor gets a warning and invitation to claim stored data. If the data is not claimed within a given period – a month or two – it is deleted. The phone call and text options for MFA authentication were removed and some faculty have expressed concern. EDR rollout has taken some by surprise, and there is pushback about universal coverage. EDR will be a topic at a town hall next Friday.

UC San Diego: The committee is discussing the EDR rollout, which is happening in phases. Administrators and staff first, then the sciences, then those who have personal devices that connect to the campus network. Where there have been issues, if the local IT staff cannot address the problem, it can be escalated. The Senate is trying to help to address misconceptions by faculty. Another topic is the two-year overhaul of the student information systems. Faculty are involved. The local committee will begin to include oversight for AI in education in its purview, and will increase its membership. Regarding data storage, UCSC has a buy-in model for any amount beyond basic storage.

Undergraduate student: Storage and AI use are concerns undergraduate students. There is interest in guidance on AI tools – what to use and how.

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Meeting adjourned: 2:30pm.

Meeting minutes drafted by Joanne Miller, UCACC Committee Analyst

Attest: Jenson Wong, UCACC Chair

***Meeting participants:***

Jenson Wong (Chair, UCSF), John Kubiawicz (Berkeley), Jeremy Mason (Davis), Paul Gershon (Irvine), Irene Chen (UCLA), Lisa Yeo (Merced), Ilya Brookwell (Riverside), Barry Grant (San Diego), Duygu Tosun-Turgut (San Francisco), Jerome Fiechter (Santa Cruz), Aatmi Mehta (Undergraduate student, UCLA), Steven Cheung (Academic Council Chair), Ahmet Palazoglu (Academic Council Vice Chair), Van Williams, Vice President (UC Chief Information Officer), Monte Ratzlaff (UC Chief Information Security Officer), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst)