

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC SENATE
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS
Minutes of Meeting**

November 10, 2010

Attending: Joel Primack, Chair (UCSC), Anthony Joseph (UCB), Ida Sim (UCSF) (telephone), Jun Li (UCR), Sreenivas Jammalamadaka (UCSB), Maurizio Forte (UCM), Nim Nahum (Undergraduate Representative, UCLA), Dan Simmons (Academic Senate Chair), Martha Winnacker (Academic Senate Executive Director), Stephen Lau (Information Resources and Communication Director of Policy), Brenda Abrams (Policy Analyst)

I. Welcome

Chair Primack invited members to bring up new issues.

Discussion: The undergraduate student representative reported that not enough classes are being podcasted at his campus. The issue has come up repeatedly and a decision was made to not put classes online. It would be good to have supplementary materials available online. About 25 to 30 classes a quarter are podcasted and these tend to be big lecturers in introductory courses. Having these podcasts available to review before midterms or finals would be good for students. At UCSC there are no funds to support podcasts. The Chair encouraged the student representative to draft a report on the background of this issue including what is being done and what should be done. The report should be sent to UCCC and the campus computing committee. There is a concern that students will not attend the lecturers if they are available online. Students have to be responsible for determining if not attending classes works for them. The student representative could survey students to determine what type of online courses they would like. There are costs associated with recording classes.

Members discussed their interest in computing issues and the online instruction pilot project. At UCR one issue is the need for additional computer labs and upgrades to existing labs and one question is whether there are resources at UCOP the campus could apply for. Hardware and software are needed by students. The UCB representative is interested in discussing efficiencies in data centers and cloud computing, and best practices across campuses with respect to IT policies. UCSF faculty are interested in creating web servers to present their research portals but security is an issue. Other medical centers are dealing with the same issue and UCOP is trying to find systemwide solutions. The fact that this involves patient data makes this a complicated issue. The chief privacy officer at UCOP could be invited to a UCCC meeting. Privacy laws were written for the corporate environment and not with academics in mind. UC should weigh in about the laws especially to emphasize the value of protecting privacy in research. FERPA covers issues related to posting students' grades.

II. Supercomputing Resources

It is useful to have powerful supercomputing resources at the campuses. The existing resources are not shared in large part because the needs are different across disciplines. One problem is that the machines require a lot of electricity for cooling which faculty are not charged for and the money campuses put up to cover the costs are matching funds in grants. Better support would be provided if computers were located remotely at supercomputer centers. Another issue is related to the Shared Research Computing Project and the fact that the pilot was not openly announced. The Vice Chancellors for Research picked faculty who were already using supercomputing resources. UC could have provided this resource to faculty who do not currently use these resources or do not have access to them. There will be limits to where the centers can be remotely located until the building in Berkeley is built and it is not clear when this center will be available. Faculty in some disciplines have access to national systems as a result of having grants.

Discussion: At UCB there is a group looking at energy efficiency and different financial models. Faculty may be charged and these costs could be recharged to grants. UCSC makes money available for faculty to pay for charges at UCSD.

III. Consultation with the Office of the President

- *Stephen Lau, Policy Director, Information Resources and Communications*

The chair explained the problems with iLinc and would like to use a better videoconferencing system.

Discussion: Director Lau agreed to look into other systems. Different systems that have been used at UCOP and by committee members were discussed.

IV. Campus Wireless Infrastructure

Campuses need to be rewired both between and within buildings. Rewiring within buildings can be very expensive. An alternative is high speed wireless within buildings although the cost savings are not as significant as some would expect. Old wires are corroded at UCSC.

Discussion: A problem with wireless is the question of who will pay for it. At UCB the Chancellor is covering the costs now but the departments will eventually be charged.

V. Optiputers

It would be ideal to have the large displays in the classroom but they are not being used that way.

Discussion: At UCM there have been multiple problems with using large displays including the cost of moving them. The UCM representative reported that portable immersive systems have been developed with UCB and UCD and other campuses can participate in this project. These systems allow for collaboration and could be useful tools for online instruction. Members discussed viewers for 3D systems and Kinect which is very affordable. It was noted the many vendors give faculty equipment. Vendors can be asked for limited configurations on machines with deep discounts for a limited time.

VI. eTextbooks

Discussion: The committee discussed the strengths and weaknesses of different platforms used with eTextbooks including how interactive they are. There are issues related to accessibility for disabled students. Students also may prefer being able to mark up hard copies of textbooks. Proprietary eTextbooks are locked to particular devices so UCCC could ask for broad format adoption so students are not required to buy any specific type of platform. The current costs of some devices may be prohibitive for some students, although campuses may be able to make deals for bulk purchases. A question is whether UC can standardize on one platform. Flatworld Publishers could give a presentation to UCCC.

VII. Remote and Online Instruction

Discussion: It is not clear if or how significantly other universities have implemented online instruction. One member reported conducting online lectures and using Teaching Assistants to answer students' questions. It will be important to make sure that faculty get credit for creating and teaching the courses and that students are not penalized for taking them. There are ongoing costs associated with refreshing the courses. Another issue is the faculty may not support the courses in later years so a plan for Teaching Assistants to do this needs to be in place. It might be good to provide faculty with partial credit for teaching online courses.

Invite Dan Greenstein to UCCC February meeting to discuss online pilot.

VIII. Member Items

Member items were discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

IX. New Business

Consultation with the Academic Senate Office

- *Dan Simmons, Chair, Academic Senate*
- *Martha Winnacker, Executive Director, Academic Senate*

Chair Simmons provided an update on the budget. UC received one time money and the amount will be added to what will be asked for next year. The budget being presented to the Regents proposes an 8% fee increase. The budget has \$72 million for staff and faculty across the board increases and money for a 2.5% increase for faculty merits. The president's recommendation for post employment benefits is consistent with what Chair Simmons heard when visiting the campuses. It was noted that Senate input on the recommendations was listened to. Chair Primack thanked Chair Simmons for his visits to the campuses.

The Senate is also engaged in strategic planning and committees are providing input on downsizing the University. The Senate's immediate past chair Harry Powell is chairing a task force comprised of members of the Commission on the Future work groups. When the task force's report is reviewed by Council, Council will determine next steps. UC is engaged in ad hoc downsizing and deans are making decisions about how to deal with attrition. If UC keeps salaries consistently lower than they are at comparison institutions the university will not be able to hire and retain the best faculty. It will be important for UC to fix the salary scales considering that 80% of faculty are off scale. The loss of compensation for faculty creates animosity towards the system and decreases loyalty to the university. The Senate is examining issues related to students transferring from the community colleges. The Commission on the Future recommended creating consistent lower division course requirements. Faculty across campuses in five departments will be discussing requirements to identify differences and determine whether those differences are necessary.

Privacy and Security

The president asked for a commission to be formed to look at existing practices regarding privacy and security. A work group has formed to support the commission and Chair Simmons and two faculty members are on the commission. The first meeting was on October 25th when there was a presentation about the complexities related to privacy. There are issues related to academic freedom, sharing research, privacy, and use of personal digital assistants. The commission will meet again in December. The group is working on basic principles about privacy. The use of UC property to organize acts of electronic civil disobedience will also be considered. A website has been set up: This should be on the February agenda.

Meeting Adjourned At: 3:10 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By: Brenda Abrams

Attest: Joel Primack