



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
Minutes of Videoconference
Monday, January 6, 2025

In attendance: Rachael Goodhue, Chair (UCD), Catherine Sugar, Vice Chair (UCLA), Oscar Dubon (UCB Alternate), David Kyle (UCD), Allison Perlman (UCI), Jeffrey Maloy (UCLA), Jay Sharping (UCM), Jennifer Nájera (UCR Alternate), Carrie Wastal (UCSD), Angel Kuo (UCSF), Jason Duque (UCSB), Tanner WouldGo (UCSC), Isabelle Escobar (Undergraduate Student Representative), Todd Greenspan (Executive Advisor, Academic Planning and Policy Development, Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP)), Carmen Corona (Director, Academic Planning and Policy, IRAP), Ahmet Palazoglu (Vice Chair, Academic Senate), Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst, Academic Senate)

I. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Ahmet Palazoglu, Vice Chair, Academic Senate

The Regents approved the 2025-2026 budget which includes a 9.9% increase in non-resident tuition for new cohorts and an adjustment to the faculty salary scales. More information about the state's budget and funding for UC will be available later this month. Chair Cheung will provide the Regents with a review of Senate disciplinary processes in January. Academic Assembly unanimously approved the statement on UC quality undergraduate education prepared by UCEP. Assembly had a lengthy debate about the proposed Area H ethnic studies requirement and the vote is postponed until the April meeting. There will be a special Assembly meeting on January 17th to consider the President's information security policy, when faculty salary adjustments are made, and the increased health plan premium.

In December, Academic Council approved the proposal from the Academic Council Special Committee on Transfer Issues (ACSCOTI) to revise Senate Regulation (SR) 479 to allow students to satisfy the California General Education Transfer Curriculum science requirements with two courses in different science disciplines. However, there are questions related to the administrative costs of the proposal to allow students to defer four courses until after transferring to UC and Council will ask ACSCOTI to study the issue further. The feedback from the systemwide review of the proposed SR 627, the policy on awarding degrees posthumously, raised a variety of concerns and Council will ask UCEP and the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) to reconsider the matter. Council learned that UCOP will add \$200M to the mortgage origination program. The divisions will evaluate several UCSF memorials about extending Senate membership to adjunct and health sciences clinical faculty.

A joint Senate-administration workgroup on the faculty salary range adjustment effective date will assess the implications of the adjustments being made in October instead of July. Over the winter break, the Academic Advisory Committee for the presidential search reviewed more than 100 applications and recommendations will be sent to the Regents Special Committee in mid-January. The searches for the UCR and UCSB chancellors are moving forward. Academic Planning Council's

(APC) workgroup on the systemwide calendar is evaluating if it would be beneficial for the nine undergraduate campuses to have a common calendar. A Senate-administration workgroup is reviewing Academic Personnel Manual (APM) policies 015 and 016 which deal with the faculty code of conduct and policies related to expressive activities. A phase one report has been submitted to the provost and president and the workgroup concluded that no changes should be made to APM 015. The study of total remuneration and benefits is being handled by systemwide human resources at the Office of the President. There will be a workgroup with Senate faculty to help shape the work of the vendor conducting the study. Chair Cheung was hoping that the successor task force to the Presidential Task Force on Instructional Modalities and UC Quality Undergraduate Education would start next fall, but the provost would like it to convene as soon as possible.

Discussion: UCEP should provide its recommendations on the charge for the successor task force this week and is invited to offer principles on the common core assessment by April or May.

II. Consent Calendar

Action: Today's agenda items and their priority were approved.

Action: The December 2, 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

III. Chair's Announcements and Updates

APC received a presentation on the Five Year Planning Perspectives and ten undergraduate degree programs will have an online component. There is uncertainty around state funding for UC in 2025-2026 but a cut is anticipated. Academic Council received a report on the restructuring of UC Center Sacramento which highlighted the need for funding. Council also discussed a new state policy which prohibits writing official letters of recommendation without knowing whether an individual has been accused of sexual harassment. Vice Chair Sugar summarized the December 12th Academic Assembly discussion about the proposed Area H ethnic studies requirement.

IV. UCEP's Position on Credit by Exam

A variety of external entities would like UC to grant credit for the curriculum and exams offered in high schools. UC faculty need to evaluate the curriculum and exams to determine if they should be accepted which becomes a workload issue. This situation prompted UCEP to issue a statement last year explaining that faculty do not support awarding credit for external exams beyond the well-known Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate. The College Board recently made substantive changes to how AP scores are verified and UC faculty are concerned about how to interpret the new standard and scores.

The Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) is currently developing criteria for evaluating the newer, less common curriculum and exams to determine if they can be used to satisfy UC's A-G requirements for undergraduate admissions. In the context of transfer students, there is tension around the external exams accepted by the California State University system that are not accepted by UC, such as the College Level Examination Program. The intention of today's discussion is not to revisit UCEP's position on credit by exam, but to share this background with new members and provide an update on recent developments.

Discussion: Analyst Abrams underscored that BOARS is considering external courses or exams that might be used to satisfy A-G requirements for first year students while UCEP is thinking about credit awarded toward UC graduation requirements for specific majors and/or general education requirements. Cambridge International has lobbied the Regents about UC granting credit for their AS-level exams. Analyst Abrams also indicated that a technical report from the College Board on the changes to AP scoring verification will be shared with BOARS and UCEP. A member asserted that programs should have the autonomy to decide whether the external tests can be used for placement purposes. In July, UCEP sent a memo to the divisions indicating that there may be cases when programs may want to review exams for course credit on their campus.

V. UC Center Sacramento (UCCS)

Students from campuses other than UCD who attend UCCS might not receive credit for those courses toward their major. UCEP cannot mandate that campuses award credit for the UCCS courses, and members are asked to approve a memo to the divisions encouraging departments to be generous when deciding about granting credit in a major. Analyst Abrams explained that UCCS courses are approved by UCD's political science department. Senate leadership was under the impression that the credit issue could be resolved if UCEP granted UCCS courses systemwide status, but this is not the case.

Discussion: A member suggested that departments should have a mechanism to pre-approve UCCS courses so students will know what will be accepted in advance. The group exploring ways to restructure UCCS explored ways to attract students in disciplines other than political science. The experience for students who attend UCCS is not just based on the courses. Petitions could be sent to academic advisors who can help determine if activities at the Center can be used for electives or a type of 199 research unit. The UCD representative reminded the committee about the restructuring advisory workgroup's other considerations.

Action: A motion to approve the memo was made and seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to transmit the memo to Academic Council for distribution to the divisions.

VI. Charge for Successor Task Force to the 2023-2024 Presidential Task Force on Instructional Modalities and UC Quality Undergraduate Education

Earlier in the meeting, the committee learned from Vice Chair Palazoglu that the provost would like the successor task force to start as soon as possible, therefore the committee's input on the charge is needed right away. During the previous UCEP meeting, Chair Cheung asked the committee to think about the common assessment of online programs.

Discussion: The Presidential Task Force recommended setting up pilot programs so there can be a rigorous experiment, but this will require finding faculty willing to teach both the in-person and online courses. There are a variety of questions including if pilot degree programs should be offered for specific majors and how a pilot degree program can be discontinued. The charge should include a recommendation that student demand for fully online degree programs be studied given the cost of offering quality online courses. However, there must also be a conversation about the dimensions of a high-quality educational experiences. UC campuses have offered many online courses and the data on them should be used to make informed decisions about fully online

degrees. Assumptions are made about the quality of in-person courses and there should be an acknowledgment that how well courses are doing across all modalities should be reevaluated.

UC needs to think about how more students can be admitted and identify creative ways to make UC more accessible as the system deals with limited physical capacity. However, members worry that online degree programs might create different tiers of students and faculty. There are also concerns about the ongoing impact of the pandemic on student mental health and well-being along with academic engagement. The studies on demand for fully online degree programs should also ask students how such programs influence their emotional state. Students' overall learning experience might be impeded even when the online courses are taught by qualified instructors. Online degree programs may be advantageous for students with disabilities or who require flexible schedules. The UCSC representative volunteered to work on the recommendations for the charge.

VII. Consultation with Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP)

*Todd Greenspan, Executive Advisor, Academic Planning and Policy Development and
Carmen Corona, Director, Academic Planning and Policy, IRAP*

Following the state audit of the use of online program management (OPMs) companies, UC must establish policies by this June. An APC workgroup is devising the policies with the help of subject matter experts. The goal is to implement safeguards to ensure transparency in how OPMs are used. Director Corona reported that Academic Planning is looking at outcomes from Extension programs to see how certificate earners are meeting California workforce goals. Old Five Year Planning Perspectives will be compared to current data as part of the effort to see if UC is contributing to the workforce in a way that is consistent with the compact with the governor.

Academic Planning is also investigating how math and chemistry courses are barriers that preclude students from progressing at a steady pace or cause difficulties with graduation rates. This project entails collecting information from the campuses about best practices. The Council of Vice Chancellors, vice provosts and deans for undergraduate education, and Regents will eventually receive a report on this project. UC's fall enrollment data will be publicly released tomorrow, and Executive Advisor Greenspan shared that enrollment of California undergraduate students grew by 1.3% while enrollment of undergraduate non-resident students declined. UCB and UCSD are discussing if enrollment of non-resident students should continue to be decreased and this will be related to how much funding for UC is in the governor's budget for 2025-2026. The executive advisor noted that responses to the survey about quarter versus semester calendars are being collated and will be shared with the workgroup at an upcoming meeting.

VIII. Systemwide Guidelines for Experiential Learning

The committee is asked to consider if systemwide guidelines on experiential learning should be created. Campus policies for experiential learning and internships have been shared with the committee. The possible need for systemwide guidelines came up when Chair Goodhue and Analyst Abrams met with the UCCS director and the chair of the Center's Faculty Council. UCEP could focus on guidelines for UCCS or the UC Washington Center (UCDC) or members might ask their divisional Undergraduate Council (UGC) or Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) to consider the matter.

Discussion: There are a variety of activities that are referred to as experiential learning or community engagement so defining what is being discussed will be an important first step. Instead of attempting to have guidelines that address all the disparate activities that fall under the umbrella of experiential learning, recommendations could be tailored specifically to UCCS and UCDC. It would be helpful for UCCS and UCDC to have principles to guide what academic credit-bearing internships should look like. Director Corona is working with campus career centers and Extension programs on experiential learning and having discussions with the governor's office about how UC can expand these opportunities.

If campuses are not encountering any difficulties with experiential learning activities or internships it is unnecessary for UCEP to interfere. The committee should avoid putting guidelines in place that somehow invalidate an experiential learning activity. Members will gather the missing campus policies and ask their CEPs/UGCs to opine on the need for systemwide guidance. Analyst Abrams will send the campus policies to UCDC's executive director and suggest the Center identify any campus policies that align with their activities.

IX. Member Reports/Campus Updates

There were no Member Reports or Campus Updates.

X. New Business/Executive Session

Analyst Abrams shared the history of the proposed policy on awarding degrees posthumously and commented that it is not clear if some of the feedback from the systemwide review of SR 627 can be reconciled. For example, campuses had contrasting perspectives about the good standing criteria. UCEP should consider if a systemwide policy is necessary since many campuses already have their own. Chair Goodhue commented that the Academic Council's discussion about the proposed policy was disheartening and pointed out that the degree is not about the deceased student but is instead a gesture of respect to their family.

Discussion: Vice Chair Sugar indicated that UCEP had numerous discussions about the proposed policy last year which included debates regarding the academic standing criteria and egregious actions by a deceased student. The consensus was that the goal of the policy is to be generous and that the technicalities should be simplified. Even within a campus, different schools may have different rules about who should be awarded with a degree posthumously and this is an equity issue. Members are encouraged to think about who would be disadvantaged if these degrees are awarded. Consideration might also be given to other circumstances where an honorific degree might be awarded such as if a student suffers injuries that prevent pursuit of their education as well as the need for more consistent policies related to students taking time off for bereavement.

The meeting adjourned at: 4:55 PM

Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams, Principal Policy Analyst

Attest: Rachael Goodhue, Chair