



# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Academic Senate

## UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY Minutes of Videoconference Monday, February 3, 2025

In attendance: Rachael Goodhue, Chair (UCD), Catherine Sugar, Vice Chair (UCLA), Gireeja Ranade (UCB), 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)), Ethan Savage, (Academic Planning & Policy Analyst, IRAP), Steven W. Cheung (Chair, Academic Senate), Ahmet Palazoglu (Vice Chair, Academic Senate), Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst, Academic Senate)

### I. Consent Calendar

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

**Action:** The January 6, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

### II. Chair's Announcements and Updates

Chair Goodhue reported that the recent Provost's Budget call included a discussion about the 7.5% budget cut that is expected. The calendar conversion workgroup's report may be issued in March or April. Academic Planning Council (APC) received a presentation from the chairs of the workgroup on the future of graduate education and the workgroup's report will be issued soon. Undergraduate enrollment for fall 2025 will exceed the target set in the compact with the governor, and UCB, UCSD, and UCLA are considering whether their enrollment of non-resident undergraduate students should be increased.

Academic Council received a presentation on vulnerable students and Chair Goodhue noted that each campus has support centers for undocumented students. There are concerns about students who are part of families with both undocumented and undocumented residents.

Chair Goodhue spoke with the chair of the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) during the Council meeting about the proposed policy on awarding degrees posthumously. The feedback from the systemwide review had conflicting input that might be difficult to reconcile, so CCGA and UCEP might propose guidelines instead of a policy.

The Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) met last week and discussed a request from Cambridge International for their exams to satisfy the California General Education Transfer Curriculum requirements. Chair Goodhue reminded ICAS members about UCEP's 2024 memo outlining concerns about credit by exam. Analyst Abrams commented that the College Board has made changes to its scoring verification process and the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools is waiting for a technical report about the new process which will be shared

with UCEP. ICAS is preparing for its annual Legislative Day in April which involves meeting with various state legislators in Sacramento.

### **III. Preparation for March 3rd Visit with Provost Newman**

The committee will be joined by Provost Newman on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and it would be helpful for members to determine which topics should be the focus of the discussion. Potential topics include the restructuring of the UC Center Sacramento (UCCS), the successor task force to the Presidential Task Force on Instructional Modalities and UC Quality Undergraduate Education, and UCEP's ongoing concerns about meaningful data on UC Online courses.

**Discussion:** Members suggested asking the provost about the following: the calendar conversion workgroup; the impacts of summer session; the pressure to implement fully online undergraduate degree programs; UC's strategy for artificial intelligence; decision-making related to budget cuts across the system; and if there is a plan to provide additional mental health support to students. A member recommended asking how the provost would prioritize the various initiatives underway.

### **IV. Principles for Common Core Assessment for Online Programs**

Senate leadership has asked UCEP to work on a common assessment that can be used for both online and in-person programs, but since the information is needed by April or May, the committee will instead work on principles for assessment. Members may want to review documents such as UCEP's white paper on online undergraduate degree programs and the UC quality statement.

**Discussion:** A member recommended that something like "core assessment" should be used instead of "common core" as the latter is related to K-12. As UCSC's Creative Technologies program evolves, helpful information related to its assessment might be shared with other campuses. The committee should consider what it means to assess in-person courses versus online courses.

### **V. Curricular Review of UC Washington Center (UCDC)**

Chair Goodhue explained that UCEP will receive a set of courses from UCDC to review and three members are asked to handle this work.

**Action:** The UCI, UCSD, and UCSB representatives volunteered to review the courses, which was much appreciated.

### **VI. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership**

*Steven W. Cheung, Chair, and Ahmet Palazoglu, Vice Chair, Academic Senate*

Academic Council endorsed UCEP's memos regarding departments granting credit for UCCS courses and on the approval of UCR's variance request. Council voted to send a proposal to sunset the University Committee on Preparatory Education and shift some of that committee's responsibilities to UCEP out for systemwide review and shift some of that committee's responsibilities to UCEP. The January Regents meeting included a presentation by Chair Cheung on faculty misconduct matters and the Regents would like the Privilege and Tenure hearing committees to have a more robust structure. Chair Cheung will work with the Academic Personnel office at UCOP on these matters and submit a report to the Regents in April. The goal is to identify

strategies to handle faculty discipline that will satisfy the Regents while also preserving faculty self-governance and protecting academic freedom. Chair Cheung noted that a financial investment will be required to manage an increased number of investigations into misconduct.

UC is slated to absorb a \$272M reduction to its core budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Although the tax receipts have outpaced projections, any excess state revenue will be used for relief efforts following the fires in Southern California. APC is debating how UC can continue to meet the terms of the compact with the governor to increase enrollment by 1% per year without an increase in funding. The University is trying to address the recent executive orders from the new federal administration. Senate leadership provided updates on the chancellor searches and workgroups.

## **VII. Compendium Revisions**

*Tanner WouldGo (UCSC) and David Kyle (UCD)*

The UCSC representative added changes to the proposed Compendium revisions suggested during the committee's last discussion. A global recommendation is to ensure that the document is accessible in terms of assistive technology. Analyst Abrams explained that CCGA, the University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB), and the University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) will also propose changes to the Compendium which will be combined with UCEP's and submitted to APC. It is not clear when APC will convene a workgroup to update the document.

**Action:** A motion to send the proposed revisions to CCGA, UCPB, and UCORP was made and seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to forward the revisions.

## **VIII. Systemwide Review Item: Proposed Revisions to APM 036 - General University Policy Regarding Academic Appointees/Employment**

UCEP has the opportunity to opine on the proposed revisions to Academic Personnel Manual policy 036. The revision addresses a new California law that prohibits faculty from writing an official letter of recommendation for someone accused of sexual harassment.

**Discussion:** One problem with this proposed requirement is that faculty would be forced to ask if a student has been a respondent in a sexual harassment complaint. Members reported being given conflicting information about the proposed requirement including whether official letterhead can be used. One recommendation is that the required disclaimer language should be added to a recommendation letter template.

**Action:** Chair Goodhue will draft a memo with the committee's input on the proposed revisions.

## **IX. Update UCEP Guidelines for Approving and Reviewing Systemwide Courses and Programs**

There are differences between the 2011 and 2014 guidelines for approving and reviewing systemwide courses, so UCEP might want to develop one new document to replace them. Analyst Abrams noted that the first course granted systemwide status was the Natural Reserve System (NRS) California Conservation and Ecology field course in 2015. The 2014 guidelines indicate that unit credit will be granted for systemwide courses and that these courses are not guaranteed to

fulfill general education, pre-major, or major credit. Chair Goodhue would like to postpone working on an updated set of guidelines until the UCDC courses are reviewed.

**Discussion:** The UC Online courses available for cross-campus enrollment are de facto systemwide courses. Analyst Savage noted that UC Online's cross-campus enrollment system allows students to see how a course articulates to UC campuses. According to Executive Advisor Greenspan, the UC Education Abroad program has a database of courses taken in other countries which had articulated to and been accepted for either general or major credit by a UC campus. The executive advisor believes it would be helpful to have a systemwide database students could use to find out the credit awarded for UCDC courses.

The 2011 guidelines indicate that "A system-wide mechanism to enable the listing of systemwide courses in campus and/or systemwide catalogs, to allow students to register and receive credit, and to designate systemwide courses on transcripts has not yet been put in place." Since things have evolved since the guidelines were devised, UCEP may want to revisit the need for a systemwide course designation. Analyst Abrams also pointed out that the guidelines were initially developed with UCDC courses in mind. One question is whether the systemwide designation ensures that the course will be listed in campus catalogs. There is consensus that, before focusing on updating the guidelines, the committee should define what a systemwide course is.

The designation was meant to allow for the management of courses when the proposing entity is not campus-based, such as the NRS field course. Vice Chair Sugar agreed with the concern about UC Online offering systemwide courses, but some thought should be given to the implications if UCEP suggests reviewing these courses. Another factor is that the committee does not want to infringe on campus authority. When a campus approves a course funded by UC Online, it might not be with the understanding that the course will be available to students throughout the system. In the past, UCEP has been told that after a course is approved by a campus committee on courses of instruction, UC Online asks the instructor if the course can be open to cross-campus enrollment. Last year, UCEP attempted to devise criteria for UC Online courses that should be reviewed by the committee, but this effort was abandoned because members were skeptical about attaining data from the program and it was unclear who should receive reports on courses deemed to be problematic.

The meeting adjourned at: 4:35 PM

Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams, Principal Policy Analyst

Attest: Rachael Goodhue, Chair