

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA** **ACADEMIC SENATE**  
**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY**  
**Videoconference Minutes**  
**Monday, April 6, 2020**

**Attending:** John Serences, Chair, (UCSD), Daniel Potter, Vice Chair, (UCD), Tony Keaveny (UCB), Katheryn Russ (UCD), Charles Smith (UCI), Lene Leve-Storms (UCLA), Jay Sharping (UCM), Owen Long (UCR), Mary Lynch (UCSF), Ted Bennett (UCSB), Onuttom Narayan (UCSC), Todd Greenspan (Director, Academic Planning), Ethan Savage (Analyst, Academic Planning), Ellen Osmundson (Director, ILTI), Mary-Ellen Kreher (Director, Course Design and Development, ILTI), Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst, Academic Senate)

**I. Chair's Announcements**

Chair Serences thanked the members for their work on the Pass/No Pass (P/NP) guidelines to campuses. Council approved the Standardized Testing Task Force (STTF) report and decided the Senate should review test data in five years. A statement will be issued indicating that copyright remains with the instructor of record and clarifying that UC can only claim copyright when it provides exceptional resources. The chair, vice chair, and members of the Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force have worked on a survey for faculty and students about their experiences with the shift to remote instruction.

**Discussion:** Members expressed concerns that not many students will respond to the survey, that the survey will generate bad data, and that the data could be used by the administration to conclude that remote instruction can be easily done. The survey data should not be used to make generalizations related to online courses. Alternatively, the results may show that remote instruction does not work. It is hoped that the survey will uncover where the infrastructure for remote instruction is inadequate. Except at UCI, the administration is not investigating how remote instruction is working, and it is important for divisional Senates to step in if the administration is not assessing the current situation.

**II. Consent Calendar**

**Action:** The March 2, 2020 minutes were approved.

**III. Consultation with the Senate Office**

- *Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair, Academic Senate*

Chair Bhavnani thanked UCEP for working on the Pass/No Pass guidelines for flexibility and on the residency policy. UCEP is central to what is happening with undergraduate education because of the pandemic. The Assembly will discuss the STTF report in April and send the recommendations to the president. The search for a new president continues and the Academic Advisory Committee has offered feedback to the Regents. The search for the UCM chancellor is in the final stage and the president will make the selection. The new vice president for research started three weeks ago and holds daily meetings with the vice chancellors for research. Issues include how research funding will be secured, how graduate and postdoctoral students are paid, and how research is ramped down and ramped up again. It is important that UC's research enterprise is receiving attention.

**IV. Consultation with the Office of the President**

- *Todd Greenspan, Director, Academic Planning, Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP)*
- *Ethan Savage, Analyst, Academic Planning, IRAP*

The review of campus proposals for Degree and Certificate Completion Programs has been slowed down due to the pandemic. IRAP is keeping track of various changes campuses are making in response to COVID-19 and campuses are encouraged to share information and language with a focus on consistency and implementation of best practices. Undergraduate deans are discussing the parts of campus that are still open such as libraries. Most campuses have decided to use remote instruction for summer but it is not yet clear how campuses will handle summer bridge programs. The Undergraduate Experience Survey will go forward with questions about this period of remote instruction.

**Discussion:** Analyst Savage will look into how undergraduate summer research programs will be handled. It would be helpful if websites for divisional Educational Policy and Undergraduate Councils include information about decisions made in response to the pandemic. Faculty are getting a large volume of email and it is difficult to ensure that essential information is received. UCB's administration is making faculty responsible for certain decisions and students are being excluded. This administration is concerned about P/NP, asserting that faculty are legally obligated to give letter grades even if they have limited information upon which to base a grade and should follow best practices. Chair Serences explained how students might be faced with unintended penalties related to taking P/NP including jeopardizing their financial aid.

UCM faculty are thinking about policies for instructors of record for courses and have concerns about top-down decisions and violations of academic freedom. Another issue is how final exams will be given and the need for flexibility to change exam strategies. UCLA has relaxed its policy about indicating what the final exam will be when courses begin. For spring quarter, the syllabi should indicate how courses will be graded. Students are pushing back against the use of ProctorU and other tools they must pay for. UCEP's survey will be shared with IRAP and Chair Serences may wish to contact Vice President Pamela Brown about IRAP support.

#### V. Systemwide Review: Proposed Presidential Policy on Gender Recognition and Lived Name

Chair Serences explained the recommendations in the proposed presidential policy on gender recognition and lived name. The use of lived names on diplomas is not addressed in the proposed policy.

**Discussion:** The opportunity to change the name on any UC documents retroactively is problematic and it would be better to only issue a new diploma when a student changes their legal name. A separate UCEP memo encouraging use of lived names on diplomas could be added to the response to this policy.

**Action:** Chair Serences will finalize the memo.

#### VI. Consultation with Innovative Learning Technology Initiative (ILTI)

- *Ellen Osmundson, Program Director, ILTI*
- *Mary-Ellen Kreher, Director, Course Development, ILTI*

The provost asked ILTI to prepare a report on exams and remote proctoring and feedback from UCEP about what is specifically regulated in departmental policy will be helpful. The requirements about final exams seem to be department-driven decisions. Alternatives to an exam include a paper or project although students in some courses will not have a final exam but instead receive a grade based on their work to date. The security of proctoring is a major concern and utilizing Zoom for proctoring is gaining traction. ILTI is compiling this information to help administrators answer questions about business aspects of proctoring such as "institution pay," where campuses pay for proctoring instead of students.

Chair Serences will transmit the memo on proposed revisions to Senate Regulation (SR) 544 to Council. The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction (UCRJ) clarified the meaning of good standing for freshmen and transfer students in SR 544. The divisional Senates decide how many cross-campus courses can be taken simultaneously.

Director Osmundson observed that faculty, staff and administrators have done a good job of quickly implementing remote instruction. Faculty have increased the capacity of their courses, made additional courses available for cross-campus enrollment, and shared expertise. Campus instructional design teams actively support this work. ILTI's website, now under Academic Affairs, has aggregated information from campus sites into a single location which includes teaching resources and information about planning and execution of remote courses. The site is updated as new resources emerge and as policies change. Faculty can also take advantage of drop-in technical sessions.

**Discussion:** Members confirmed that the format of a final exam is a divisional matter. Director Greenspan commented that the undergraduate deans have discussed final exams. Senate regulations state that a final has to be offered but UCLA Senate's might make finals optional. One campus has decided it is inappropriate for a webcam to show a student's home and another is developing its own proctoring system. Three-hour proctored exams should be reconsidered and this could be an opportunity to reshape assessment in general. Faculty should be cautious about any technique that could create inequity. Each department chair at UCB will be able to offer a one-time exemption to the final exam requirement.

**Action:** The memo proposing revisions to SR 544 was approved and will be transmitted to Council.

## **VII. Proposed Revisions to SR 630 - Senior Residency Requirement**

A memo to Council outlining proposed revisions to SR 630, which is related to SR 610, has been prepared. Clauses A and D in SR 630 are ambiguous and the ways students fulfill upper division requirements have changed. The proposed revisions simplify the requirement while also providing campuses with flexibility. UCRJ was asked for an interpretation of residency and agreed with UCEP's position that residency is taking any courses offered by instructors at a particular campus whether online or in person. The systemwide review of the proposal is likely to prompt discussion about the 45 units.

**Discussion:** Members expressed support for the proposed revisions. One question is if the revisions could open the door to a program/major consisting entirely of courses taught on other campuses but this should not be a problem given divisional responsibility over course approval. UCI encourages graduate students to take courses at other campuses not offered at UCI. Changes to SR 610 are not proposed but can be considered later.

**Action:** The memo on proposed revisions to SR 630 was approved and will be transmitted to Council.

## **VIII. Lived Names on Diplomas**

This topic was discussed with the Systemwide Review item above.

## **IX. Student Fees Beyond Tuition**

The memo has been revised to ensure flexibility and to strike a balance between transparency and not stifling innovation or infringing on academic freedom.

**Discussion:** The recommendations provide for local control and should not stifle innovation.

**Action:** The memo was approved and will be transmitted to Academic Council.

**X. Campus Reports/Member Items**

Members were invited to report on issues facing local committees and campuses.

**Discussion:** UCSF has a COVID-19 education committee meeting weekly and issues include that a number of professional school students will be unable to graduate on time and a growing number of students are requesting fee remuneration. Students cannot perform the required clinical application or be in hospitals which are limiting access. Director Greenspan suggested that UCSF bring this issue to the attention of UC Health and argue that exceptions should be considered due to current circumstances.

**XI. New Business**

In addition to the committee's July meeting, it may be necessary for UCEP to meet in August.

**XII. Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

Videoconference adjourned at: 12:33 PM  
Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams  
Attest: John Serences