

## UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

## Videoconference Minutes

Monday, May 4, 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 Updates**

The Senate's faculty survey on remote instruction has been issued and almost 5K responses have been submitted to date. UC's Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) includes questions about remote instruction. Council had a lengthy discussion about UCEP's Pass/No Pass memo because some campuses want the flexibility to extend this grading option indefinitely. This matter has revealed inconsistencies within the systemwide Senate Regulations (SR) as well as the need for flexibility in them. A preliminary list of the conflicting regulations will be discussed by UCEP. After the inconsistencies are addressed, the next step will be to build flexibility into the regulations so campuses can swiftly respond to emergency situations without systemwide approval. Council is developing a "lessons learned" document based on COVID-19 and previous crises to provide a roadmap to follow during future disruptions. UCEP's memo on course materials fees was endorsed by Council.

**II. Consent Calendar**

**Action:** The April 6, 2020 minutes were approved.

**Action:** The draft principles for working with students who are incarcerated were approved.

**III. Consultation with the Academic Senate Office**

- *Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair, Academic Senate*
- *Mary Gauvain, Vice Chair, Academic Senate*

Chair Bhavnani reported that about 20k UC faculty are teaching right now and the 5k responses so far is a good return rate. Not unexpectedly, the responses indicate that the move to remote instruction increased the workload for faculty. The committee will eventually have access to the survey data and the Senate will need to determine what will be done with the information. Chair Bhavnani will check with UCOP's Institutional Research unit about the students' responses to the UCUES questions on remote instruction. UCOP does not know how much funding will be allocated to UC by the state for 2020-2021. The chancellors will provide UCOP with different budget scenarios and Chair Bhavnani has set up an ad hoc budget committee. UCEP will be asked to consider how to manage the impact of the budget on undergraduate education.

**Discussion:** A member expressed misgivings about the meaning of grades and grading equity after recently learning that a large number of students cheated on an exam taken remotely.

**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 the proposals for Degree and Certificate Completion programs is underway and the UCSC representative to UCEP is participating. The undergraduate deans are exploring strategies for returning students to campuses in fall, ranging from having everyone on campus, only some students on campus, or some mix involving remote instruction. A major consideration is how many students will be in each dorm room. The deans indicate that they will look to their medical experts for guidance about reopening.

**Discussion:** Various ideas about testing students for the virus are being floated. UCSF is actively involved with the Department of Public Health on plans for contact tracing involving students.

## **V. Flexibility in Systemwide Senate Regulations**

Chair Serences would like to combine the discussion about flexibility in systemwide Senate Regulations with item VIII on the agenda, the issue of short and long term suspensions of normal instruction. The idea is that there should be flexibility in the regulations and campuses should have policies and contingency plans for closures of varying duration. The regulations should be overhauled and SR 630, the senior residency requirement, is a good example of the inconsistency. The discussions about Pass/No Pass were complicated by whether a Pass is equivalent to a grade of C or C- at a campus. In addition, campuses have different upper limits on the number of courses taken for Pass/No Pass.

**Discussion:** One question is whether the inconsistencies in regulations came about intentionally versus arbitrarily, and it may be important to understand any history that explains the differences. The regulations should be viewed in terms of equity, especially as it relates to whether students are in good standing or not. Members discussed how the current crisis is exacerbating and drawing attention to long-standing inequities, and UCEP should discuss changing evaluation practices to shift the focus from penalizing students to motivating them to learn. Additional concerns are related to the ethics of forcing students into remote instruction and the invasion of students' privacy.

One guiding principle to keep in mind while overhauling the regulations should be the balance between central and divisional authority. Since each campus is quite different, different solutions may be required for common challenges. Restricting the number of courses taken for Pass/No Pass seems unnecessary, and each division should have the autonomy to decide what will work best for its students. Another equity issue related to remote instruction that has emerged is related to asynchronous versus synchronous courses. Asynchronous instruction may ensure equity as recorded lectures give students flexibility while also eliminating the need to see inside students' homes. Some students' homes do not provide an environment conducive to taking an online course or exam. Chair Serences indicated that UCM has normal operating procedures and a set of policies that go into effect emergencies. The systemwide regulations should be refined to provide flexibility and adaptability to deal with future disruptions to instruction. The chair will send the committee a list of specific regulations to begin thinking through.

## **VI. General Oversight of UC's Education Abroad Program and Washington D.C. Center**

Chair Serences explained that UCEAP's process for converting grades is not transparent. UCEAP appears to convert grades on an ad hoc basis rather than using accepted rubrics. The Committee on International Education (UCIE) has a role in the oversight of UCEAP, and a memo outlining UCEP's concerns will be sent to that committee. UCEP feedback on the state's assessment of the Washington, D.C. Center (UCDC) highlighted the lack of information about course review and approval. UCDC's Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) has reportedly been given the authority to approve courses but who granted this authority is unknown. It should be noted that the AAC does not have representation from UCEP this year due to scheduling conflicts. Chair Serences asked UCDC's Executive Director for information about the review and approval of courses but there has not been a response.

**Discussion:** It is problematic that UCEAP is not subject to rules governing other academic departments. The memo to UCIE should ask about unit conversion as well. A member pointed out that UCEAP and UCDC provide important opportunities for experiential learning, therefore accountability ought to be balanced with flexibility to avoid creating policies that discourage student participation.

**Action:** The UCSC representative will draft the memo about UCEAP. Chair Serences will draft a memo to Council about UCDC.

## **VII. Consultation with Innovative Learning Technology Initiative (ILTI)**

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

Director Osmundson shared that over 70 courses will be available for spring enrollment. Faculty with ILTI courses are acting as resources to their colleagues, and students have positive feedback about the careful pedagogy built into the fully online courses. ILTI is working closely with campus colleagues to support faculty as departments quickly transition face to face courses to the remote format. An important focus is expediting course credit reviews so students know in advance the kind of credit they will receive.

ILTI has gathered information about the features of various proctoring services being utilized by the campuses which include Respondus, Zoom, ProctorU and Examity. ProctorU and Examity ask students to show their environment if faculty opt to use live monitoring via webcam and students are watched in real time. All four services have the option to record the sessions later watched by proctors to flag suspicious behaviors. UCB has prohibited remote proctoring so faculty are utilizing alternative mechanisms. UCD has a model using Zoom breakout rooms of 40 students. UCSD is employing all four services and UCSB and UCSC use ProctorU.

UCEP has raised concerns about remote proctoring related to privacy, security and accessibility. Privacy concerns arise because students are asked to show their home environment via webcam, so faculty should be aware of the option to opt out of this requirement. Requiring students to be on camera or being able to see one another can also be problematic or uncomfortable. That some students cannot afford a computer with a camera is an equity issue. In terms of security, ILTI is waiting for the companies to report where the data is stored and for how long, but they have agreed to UC policies against sharing data or using it for anything else. Students who have accessibility needs are encouraged to work with campus disability resource offices to secure accommodations. ILTI has compiled information for faculty about using alternative forms of assessment such as low stakes quizzes or having students write papers.

**Discussion:** Members found the information helpful and plan to share it with colleagues. One best practice is to remind students at the start of an exam that they should not cheat. A member described a recent incident of rampant cheating and argued that the proctoring companies should provide data on the efficacy of their services. Students can easily find videos online about how to circumvent the safeguards employed to prevent cheating. Director Kreher will follow-up with the Office of General Counsel for their guidance on accessibility and equity. The analyst noted that the Committee on Academic Computing and Communications is interested in the issues related to proctoring.

## **VIII. Short and Long Term Suspensions of Normal Instruction**

This topic was discussed with the Flexibility in Systemwide Senate Regulations topic.

## **IX. Campus Reports/Member Items**

There were no Campus Reports.

## **X. New Business**

In December, UCEP discussed and approved UC Irvine's pre-proposal to establish a School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The UCSF representative has reviewed the full proposal and recommends that it be approved. UCI has provided comprehensive responses to the questions asked about the pre-proposal. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted new questions, and UCEP should recommend that UCI prepare a backup plan that will address any complications related to the crisis.

**Discussion:** The UCI representative indicates that the division will prioritize hiring for this School.

**Action:** The committee voted to approve the proposal. The analyst will draft a memo to Council reporting this decision and the recommendation for a backup plan.

## **XI. Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

Videoconference adjourned at: 12:40 PM

Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams

Attest: John Serences