



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Academic Senate

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY Minutes of Videoconference Monday, June 2, 2025

In attendance: Rachael Goodhue, Chair (UCD), Catherine Sugar, Vice Chair (UCLA), Gireeja Ranade (UCB), David Kyle (UCD), Allison Perlman (UCI), Jeffrey Malloy (UCLA), Jay Sharping (UCM), Sara Lapan (UCR), Carrie Wastal (UCSD), Angel Kuo (UCSF), Jason Duque (UCSB), Tanner WouldGo (UCSC), Todd Greenspan (Executive Advisor for Academic Planning & Policy Development and Institutional Research, Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP)), Carmen Corona (Director, Academic Planning & Policy, IRAP), Ethan Savage, (Academic Planning & Policy Analyst, IRAP), Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst, Academic Senate)

I. Consent Calendar

Action: Today's agenda items, their priority, and removing item III from the agenda because materials were not made available in a timely fashion were approved.

Action: The May 5, 2025 UCEP meeting minutes were approved.

Action: The committee endorsed UCSD's proposed simple name change of the UC San Diego Graduate School of Marine Sciences to the School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences.

II. Chair's Announcements and Updates

Vice Chair Sugar shared that the Provost's Monthly Budget call included a discussion about the May revise which calls for a 3% decrease to UC's budget instead of an 8% cut. The budget situation is evolving and the State Legislature is supportive of UC. UC is receiving credit for campuses being ahead on reducing the number of non-resident students and it is possible that any future reductions will be minimized. Faculty merits and salary increases for represented staff are supposed to be approved, but there is no decision yet regarding salary increases for non-represented staff. There will be a temporary hold on employer contribution increases to the UC Retirement Plan. Provost Newman posited that the biggest threats to the budget are lower enrollment, particularly of international students, and changes to the Pell Grant formulas. The provost wants to explore if online graduate programs could be a source of income.

The May 22 meeting of the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) involved updates on the California Community College-led common course numbering effort and a proposal from the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) for higher education coalition building. Vice Chair Sugar explained that ICAS considered updates to the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) Standards. While minor technical revisions and changes to Area 2 (Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning) were approved, there was a lengthy debate about partial certification of Cal-GETC and the ASCSU objected to this provision so it will not be added to the Standards.

In addition to the appointment of the next UC president, the new vice provost for academic personnel and programs has been hired and the new UCR chancellor will be announced soon. Chair Goodhue noted that the new vice provost will co-chair the successor to the Presidential Task Force on Instructional Modalities and UC Quality Education. Academic Council learned that UCOP intends to secure a loan from the short term investment pool to provide some cash flow but there are concerns about the message this strategy sends to the State. Council discussed the idea of a systemwide committee on privilege and tenure to address concerns the Regents have about faculty discipline. A State bill which would have made meetings of the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) open to the public is dead for the year. The Task Force on UC Adaptations to Disruptions will release an interim report on June 18th with actionable recommendations related to helping faculty continue their research programs. This task force will also consider how faculty scholarship will be evaluated under the current conditions and whether achievement relative to opportunity guidelines can apply when the research environment has been totally transformed for the long-term.

The Council meeting included a presentation on the initiative for fossil fuel free UC and updates about various lawsuits involving the University. Chair Goodhue has asked Chair Cheung to clarify Provost Newman's statement that the guidelines for supporting students who cannot complete their degree at a UC campus will be limited to students who have completed at least half of their degree. The provost has also mentioned exploring joint bachelor's degree and extension certificate programs but Council questioned how this could be funded. Council voted to send a proposal for a systemwide committee on sustainability out for review in the fall and weighed different strategies for clinical faculty to participate in shared governance. Chair Cheung will send the provost a memo outlining the feedback from the Senate's review of the report from the Academic Planning Council (APC) Workgroup on the academic calendar. Academic Personnel Manual policy 500 on recruitment will need to be revised to comply with Assembly Bill 810 on the disclosure of misconduct when hiring. Chair Goodhue announced that UCEP will meet on July 7th and members should identify an alternate if they are unable to attend.

III. Draft Principles for Common Assessment

This item was not discussed because materials were not made available in a timely fashion

IV. Consultation with Institutional Research & Academic Planning (IRAP)

Todd Greenspan, Executive Advisor, Academic Planning & Policy Development and Institutional Research; Carmen Corona, Director, Academic Planning & Policy, Institutional Research and Academic Planning, & Ethan Savage, Academic Planning & Policy Analyst

Director Corona reported that the draft interim policy on UC's use of online program managers has been approved by the APC and the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). IRAP is now working with the PAC on implementation and will notify the State Auditor that the interim policy will be in place this month. The final approval process will include a 90-day systemwide review and the official policy should be in place before the end of the calendar year. Analyst Savage shared that the feedback on the report on the academic calendar, which included 40 emails and over 5K Qualtrics survey responses, has been incorporated into the document. The report will also include input from Chair Cheung's memo regarding the systemwide review and it will be finalized by June 13th when the Academic Calendar Workgroup will have its last meeting.

Executive Advisor Greenspan reported that UC will grow by up to 6500 FTE this year, which means UC has met the two-year goal in the compact for undergraduate enrollment growth in one year. For 2025-2026, UC is proposing 1,500 FTE growth and four or five campuses are reporting high summer enrollment demand based on registrations and a couple of campuses are above their targets for California resident undergraduate enrollment. Campus multi-year plans propose even more growth in 2026-2027 but given the fiscal constraints it is unclear if this much growth is necessary. In terms of non-resident students, changes to visa processing means many of these students may be unable to come to the States and it might be too late for campuses to replace them students with California residents. Last year, the State Auditor asked UC to look at community college transfers by discipline, program, or major and IRAP has created a dashboard that shows the 2:1 ratio by discipline. The data shows that the 2:1 freshman to transfer student ratio varies depending on discipline. Chair Goodhue agreed with Executive Advisor Greenspan's suggestion that the IRAP analysts working on this new dashboard should present it to UCEP on July 7th.

V. Proposed Definition for "Systemwide Courses"

Jason Duque (UCSB)

The UCSB representative added text to the definition to indicate that a systemwide course is a course that does not go through the local campus course approval process. One question is if the reference to the involvement of faculty from UC campuses should be in the definition.

Discussion: Members offered minor changes to the draft definition including that it should indicate that systemwide courses are reviewed every seven years. The committee discussed the language about systemwide courses being taught by UC and non-UC faculty and there was consensus about removing this bullet point. A member pointed out that the overwhelming majority of the courses taught at the UC Washington Center (UCDC) are not taught by UC faculty and the systemwide course designation allows students to receive academic credit for their participation in this program. The teaching of UC faculty is assessed as part of the merit and review process but the review of systemwide courses is the only way to check on the quality of instruction by non-UC faculty. Once the definition is finalized it will be posted on UCEP's Resources webpage. The UCSB representative previously mentioned that definitions of intercampus and multi-campus courses might be helpful and this is something the committee could take up next year.

VI. Ideas for Reimagining the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE)

The February 2025 proposal to rescind Senate Bylaw 192 and sunset UCOPE was not approved following the systemwide review. Chair Cheung has asked UCEP and BOARS to explore how UCOPE can be reimagined. Although there is no longer a systemwide writing placement exam, there are problems with math preparation and one idea from Senate leadership is for UCOPE to work on K-12 teacher training. The potential focus on teacher preparation is related to the question of whether ICAS could be involved with implementation of the recommendations in the 2024-2025 ICAS Mathematics Competencies Statement. Analyst Abrams asked members to identify three gaps in student performance and concrete ways that UC faculty can address them.

Discussion: A member involved with a teacher education program reported that UC educates about 5% of the credential candidates in the State. The UC campuses engaged in teacher education pride themselves on small, regionally-specific, and innovative work entailing research into teacher teaching and teacher learning. If the aim is to change what is happening in K-12

schools via teacher education programs, this work should be done by the CSU and CCC systems because UC would not be effective. Vice Chair Sugar noted that the Legislature and Regents have called for BOARS to consult with the California K-12 segment since the high schools, in particular, are looking at what UC's expectations are. Perhaps UCOPE can use policy to signal UC's expectations for students and what needs to be done if students lack that background. UCOPE could address what is needed for math and science placement.

A member remarked that the gaps are in the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic, and agrees that UCOPE could set expectations for where UC wants students to be when they arrive at UC so teachers have an understanding of the targets. Efforts have been underway to address writing and math but the lack of critical reading skills is a challenge. It would be helpful to see the gaps between UC's expectations and what UC courses are teaching and this could be extended to a study of the CSU, CCCs, and high schools so everyone can see what is working. Conversations about what is specifically involved in any given major can give students a clearer understanding of what they should be prepared for. There will be budget cuts from K-12 to post-secondary education which will lead to major changes and regular communication among the systems would be valuable. UCOPE could collect data on where students, especially freshmen, are struggling most in their courses to pinpoint where the gaps in preparation are.

A member is concerned that the Entry Level Writing Requirement Coordinating Council (ECC), a subcommittee of UCOPE, is not interested in collecting data that is assessment- or pedagogically-driven so questions about downstream progression and students' preparation and performance cannot be answered. There are doubts about the effectiveness of directed self-placement which is being used for both writing and math and UCOPE might help campuses have a shared understanding of placement along with the importance of assessment. Ideally, UCOPE could have the authority to require accountability from the campuses in terms of collecting specific data. UCOPE members would need to enlist their campus Institutional Research units to collect data and the committee could serve as a clearinghouse that tracks different studies being conducted on the campuses and gathers reports. Data collection will need to take into account campus context since things like student demographics and the way courses are taught differ.

Analyst Savage mentioned that the vice provosts and deans for undergraduate education have a subcommittee on math preparation and analysts in IRAP having been working on a report on innovations in math preparation at the campuses. It might be worthwhile for UCOPE to study longer term enrollment trends and figure out how UC will respond to declining numbers of students prepared to pursue a UC education. Another suggestion is for UCOPE to evaluate the effectiveness of supplemental lower level or concurrent courses.

VII. Updated Guidelines for Awarding Degrees Posthumously

Vice Chair Sugar explained the history of UCEP's work on a policy for awarding degrees posthumously which dates back to 2018. Last year, UCEP worked with the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) to draft a policy and proposed regulation which was sent out for systemwide review. Council asked UCEP and CCGA to review and incorporate the feedback from the review. However, instead of a policy and regulation, in order to move forward on this subject Vice Chair Sugar has been working with members of CCGA on a set of guidelines that will allow flexibility for divisional autonomy while also still trying to have some overall consistency and equity. In addition to the guidelines, a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) that explains the rationale

behind the recommended guidelines. The goal is to recognize the academic achievements of students whose time with UC is cut short and to extend sympathy to their families. The guidelines address eligibility criteria and Vice Chair Sugar noted that feedback from the systemwide review included opposing sentiments about good academic standing and how far along students should be in their education. The guidelines also spell out the processes for request and approval and conferral of the degree. Members were invited to share concerns about the proposed language or input on issues the FAQs should address.

Discussion: Campuses will appreciate the flexibility in the guidelines but one sticking point might be labeling the degree as posthumous. There may be further revisions to the guidelines after CCGA discusses them this Wednesday so UCEP might review the document again. Once finalized, the guidelines will be sent to Academic Council and Council will decide if a systemwide review is required or if they can simply be forwarded to the divisions.

VIII. Campus Reports/Member Items

UCSD: The committee's discussions about artificial intelligence (AI) are ongoing and there is a question about whether the campus will issue guidance. There are concerns about preparatory education in light of changing demographics.

UCSC: The campus has an AI Council, a group overseeing instructional technology, and there is now a proposal to establish a standing Senate committee on AI but it would be better for these conversations to occur in one shared space. The budgets for language programs and the Humanities Division have been severely cut and two language programs have been eliminated. The press have been present during Senate meetings which is making faculty uncomfortable, so this is being debated.

UCI: The budgetary outlook for the School of Humanities is dire and there are uncertainties about what undergraduate writing instruction and language other than English will look like. The campus's new budget model disadvantages the humanities and arts, and there are concerns that once resources are taken away from these programs they will never be restored.

UCR: The committee is discussing the effectiveness of predicting enrollment and planning for courses because the different models utilized have not done a good job. The associate provost and registrar are proposing updating the multi-year course planning banner to determine if there are better models for enrollment. Another topic is what percentage of a course needs to be in-person for it to be deemed an in-person or online course.

UCLA: The committee is concerned about the budget's impact on undergraduate teaching as departments are being asked to cut back on teaching assistants without reducing student credit hours. There are issues with shared governance and communication related to a new campus administrator. The committee considered a proposal from the campus General Education (GE) Governance Committee to institute a policy that GE courses should not be entirely remote. The representative provided an update to the Assembly Bill 928 Implementation Committee on UCLA's pilot of associate degrees for transfer (ADTs). Implementation of the ADTs is moving forward and students will be accepted through the ADT transfer pipeline starting next year. The departments participating in the pilot are enthusiastic about the opportunity for them to expand their transfer outreach.

UCSF: The committee approved an accelerated pharmacy program with UCM and five students will be admitted in their sophomore year which will reduce their pharmacy education from seven years to six. The elimination of parking at the main medical center is creating a stressful situation.

UCB: The divisional Senate committee on AI has shared sample syllabi for faculty who want to use AI in their classes, faculty who forbid it, and faculty who are neutral. The Undergraduate Council (UGC) does not have an answer regarding how disallowing AI would be enforced. The committee has handled academic program reviews and is worried about the budget.

UCSB: The campus is waiting on the selection of the new chancellor and the reasons why this has been delayed are unclear. There is a sense that the new chancellor might lead to greater transparency from the campus administration. The UGC is reviewing proposals for modifications to major and minor programs as they contend with declining enrollment and constrained funding by being creative with program offerings to attract and retain students. There are challenges related to shared governance and figuring out when the Senate has the authority to object.

UCM: The committee is discussing the budget situation. An incident at the commencement has put the campus's shared governance to the test as the administration has not yet been forthcoming about the reasons behind what happened. The campus is enthusiastic about the new pharmacy program offered in collaboration with UCSF. The committee is finishing up work related to the liberal studies, business administration, and accounting programs.

IX. New Business/Executive Session

Chair Goodhue reminded members to keep the July 7th meeting on their calendar or to find an alternate.

The meeting adjourned at: 3:25 PM

Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams, Principal Policy Analyst

Attest: Rachael Goodhue, Chair