UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA
Academic
Senate

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
Minutes of Videoconference
Monday, July 7, 2025

In attendance: Rachael Goodhue, Chair (UCD), Catherine Sugar, Vice Chair (UCLA), Darlene Francis (UCB Alternate), Allison Perlman (UCI), Jeffrey Maloy (UCLA), Sara Lapan (UCR), Carrie Wastal (UCSD), Angela Kuo (UCSF), Jason Duque (UCSB), Tanner WouldGo (UCSC), Todd Greenspan (Executive Advisor for Academic Planning & Policy Development & Institutional Research, Institutional Research & Academic Planning (IRAP)), Carmen Corona (Director, Academic Planning & Policy, IRAP), Ethan Savage, (Academic Planning & Policy Analyst, IRAP), Steven W. Cheung (Chair, Academic Senate), Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst, Academic Senate)

I.   Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership
Steven W. Cheung, Chair, Academic Senate

Chair Cheung reported that UCSB will change the search firm looking for the next chancellor and Provost Marshall will serve as the interim chancellor. The new vice provost for faculty affairs and academic programs, Dr. Monica Varsanyi, will co-chair the successor task force to the Presidential Task Force on Instructional Modalities and UC Quality Education along with incoming Vice Chair Scott. This new task force will focus on implementation issues surrounding UC quality and assessment metrics and may also determine the role of remote education for international students. Chair Cheung thanked the UCEP subcommittee that prepared the principles for common assessment of in-person and online courses. The draft charge for the new task force should be updated to ensure issues of interest to the Senate are addressed, that UC quality is safeguarded, and that there are reasonable assessments. The task force will be comprised of administrators and Senate faculty, and should include experts in measuring learning outcomes and in course design.

In June, Academic Assembly approved the appointment of the next chair of the systemwide Committee on Committees as well as a resolution to demand that President Drake suspend implementation of Trellix and similar monitoring software. The June 25 Academic Council meeting included discussions about UC Health plan offerings for 2025-2026 and proposed revisions to Academic Personnel Manual policy 360 which deals with the appointment and promotion of librarians. Council approved proposals from the Academic Council Special Committee on Transfer Issues (ACSCOTI) to consolidate four existing transfer pathways for the biological sciences into one biology pathway and to sunset ACSCOTI.

Provost Newman announced the Junior Faculty Research Excellence Initiative which will launch in the coming academic year and Chair Cheung is working with Vice Provost Varsanyi on the criteria for eligibility. The program will provide approximately 60 grants of $50K each to junior faculty and each campus may nominate up to 10 faculty with at least two awards guaranteed per campus. The provost is also exploring a certificate program similar to one at MIT that is a pipeline for students with a certain grade point average into online degree graduate programs. The report on faculty

discipline, policies, and procedures will undergo a systemwide review in the fall term and an interim policy is in place now. The governor's May revise called for a 3% reduction to UC and although the legislature then called for a 0% cut, the budget signed by the governor maintains the 3% reduction with a promise to restore the cut in 2026-2027, and funding for enrollment growth is deferred.

Vice Chair Palazoglu shared that the Task Force on UC Adaptations to Disruptions (UCAD) is drafting an interim report that will be transmitted to Council in the next few weeks. UCAD has focused on: the research disruptions caused by the terminated federal grants and how UC can support the faculty and students who have been affected; the evaluation of faculty scholarship in this new research landscape and how the achievement relative to opportunities principles may come into play; how the Senate might be involved in any academic program restructuring or resizing; and how courses can be articulated across UC campuses and providing course approvals for degree programs. The issue of course articulation is related to students who need to complete their education by taking courses online but this has also been a challenge for UC Washington Center and UC Center Sacramento. UCAD will continue working over the summer and into the fall and Vice Chair Palazoglu indicated that there is regular communication from the Task Force to different Senate groups, the Office of the President (UCOP), and the divisions.

II.   Consent Calendar

Action: Today's agenda items and their priority were approved.
Action: The June 2, 2025 UCEP meeting minutes were approved.

III.   Chair's Announcements and Updates

Vice Chair Sugar attended the most recent Academic Assembly meeting on behalf of Chair Goodhue and shared that the agenda included a UCSD and UCSF proposal for a systemwide committee on climate change which will be distributed for Senate review in the fall. Assembly approved grading variances for UCR and UCLA which will bring processes into alignment with practice. In addition to updates from President Drake and Chief Financial Officer Brostrom, Provost Newman mentioned a group looking at public-private research funding partnerships and the UC Global Language Study initiative that would make infrequently taught languages available across the campuses via UC Online. The provost also described degree plus programs being piloted at UCSB and UCSD that are designed to give students extra credentials.

Chair Goodhue explained that the support for students who may not be able to complete their education at a UC campus limited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College & University Commission accreditation requirement that 50% of the degree requirements must be completed through in-person instruction. Academic Council received a presentation from UCOP representatives in charge of international students and scholars and there is no information about whether any of the 159 students whose visas were revoked have self-deported. UCLA shared questions with Council about pressures to change modality because of the budget crisis. The UCB divisional Senate sent a memo to Chair Cheung about the interim faculty discipline policy.

IV.   Draft Principles for Common Assessment
Vice Chair Sugar, Jason Duque (UCSB), and Tanner WouldGo (UCSC)

Vice Chair Sugar has worked with the UCSB and UCSC representatives to devise a set of principles

for a common assessment of online and in-person courses with the understanding that each modality may have unique features requiring additional or tailored assessment. Chair Cheung and Vice Chair Palazoglu provided feedback on the latest draft including the need for metrics that can be used across the system. Since it is unlikely that fully online undergraduate degree programs will be piloted in the near future, evaluation will begin with online courses and UCSC's Creative Technologies program may be involved. The document has been restructured to include focus areas for the successor task force on instructional modalities, steps that should be taken, and exemplar questions to include in surveys. The document includes recommendations to the task force including that its membership should include assessment experts and course designers. Other recommendations are to identify core metrics and questions that would help differentiate quality across and within modalities. The task force should work with IRAP and the divisions to figure out how UC should look at longer term programmatic metrics.

Discussion: The document describes assessment of individual online courses since those are currently available, but the principles will inform what the assessment of online degree programs should entail in the future. The principles can signal the expectations for online programs and what a proposal should include to be approved. Analyst Savage remarked that it is difficult to add questions to the UC Undergraduate Experience Survey but it may be easier to implement a student survey by the campus Institutional Research units. One challenge to using the same questions is that they do not take into account the differences between courses taught at UC and the responses to those questions would have different meanings depending on the course. UCEP should be sure that faculty teaching the courses are queried. There will need to be some flexibility in how metrics are defined and determined because these may vary by campus. Vice Chair Sugar will update the principles document with the feedback from today and send it to the members by July 21st for a vote by July 28th.

V. **Consultation with Institutional Research & Academic Planning (IRAP)**
Todd Greenspan, Executive Advisor, Academic Planning & Policy Development & Institutional Research; Carmen Corona, Director, Academic Planning & Policy, Institutional Research & Academic Planning; & Ethan Savage, Academic Planning & Policy Analyst

Director Corona reported that the interim policy on the use of online program management companies has been approved and it will go out for systemwide review in the fall. Analyst Savage indicated that the report from the workgroup on the common calendar has been sent to Provost Newman and Chair Cheung and the new president will likely determine if the Regents will discuss it. Executive Advisor Greenspan shared that enrollment grew by 6,800 FTE in 2024-2025 and the campuses are predicted to grow by at least 1,500 California undergraduate residents in 2025-2026. There is uncertainty about whether international students will be able to attend. Campuses want to grow by another 5k FTE in 2026-2027 but this will be impacted by California's fiscal crisis and the reduction of federal funding. The state is committing funding for state financial aid.

VI. **Campus Reports/Member Items**

UCSB: The campus is waiting for the chancellor search to be figured out but there is frustration about the lack of information.

UCLA: There is a philosophical debate at this campus regarding justifying changes to modality.

UCI: The committee is considering how to support international students without burdening faculty.

UCSF: The division approved the UCSF-UCM pharmacy program and continues to discuss artificial intelligence (AI).

UCSD: AI is an ongoing concern. The committee discussed students who might be unable to complete their education at a UC campus and the campus will provide a limited exception for fall 2025 on a case-by-case basis for courses to be taken online.

UCR: The committee reviewed several programs and discussed how online and hybrid courses should be defined for course approval processes. UCI has a document about approving online and hybrid courses that may be helpful.

UCB: The committee will pilot a grief absence policy which will take the burden off individual faculty to approve absences. An online training for faculty on disability accommodations has been approved.

VII.   New Business/Executive Session

Principles for Awarding Degrees Posthumously
The Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs approved the draft principles for awarding degrees posthumously last week. Vice Chair Sugar pointed out the minor changes that were made to the document since UCEP reviewed it in June.

Action: The committee voted unanimously to approve the principles for awarding degrees posthumously and transmit them to Academic Council for dissemination to the divisions.

The meeting adjourned at: 3:35 PM
Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams, Principal Policy Analyst
Attest: Rachael Goodhue, Chair