

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE  
ON  
EDUCATIONAL POLICY  
2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT**

**TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:**

The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) met by videoconference 15 times in Academic Year 2025-2026 to conduct business with respect to its duties as outlined in [Senate Bylaw 170](#) and in the Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units, and Research Units (the “[Compendium](#)”). The major activities of the committee and the issues it addressed this year are outlined briefly, as follows.

**Global Language Network**

Over the course of the 2025-2026 academic year, UCEP monitored the launch of the Global Language Network (GLN), an initiative organized by humanities deans across the system and UC Online at the UC Office of the President with the goal of supporting the instruction of and expand access to less commonly taught languages for undergraduates by leveraging online delivery, cross-campus enrollment, and systemwide coordination. In November, the GLN Task Force chair, UCLA Dean of Humanities Alexandra Stern, met with the committee to explain the rationale for the network and the implementation phases. Although Vice Chair Duque represented UCEP on the Task Force, accurate details about the status of initiative remained largely unavailable throughout the year.

**Degree Plus Pilot Initiative**

UCEP learned about the Degree Plus Pilot Initiative following announcements by Provost Katherine Newman to the Board of Regents and the Academic Council. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the committee received a thorough overview of the pilot’s implementation from UC System Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs & Academic Programs, Monica Varsanyi. Provost Newman created the Degree Plus initiative, which is being piloted at UCSB’s and UCSD’s extension programs, to provide students with an add-on to their UC degree by combining job-oriented or skills-focused certificate programs with a paid internship. UCEP members have concerns about the degree of oversight divisional Senates have over campus Extension programs and whether the quality of extension courses will be assessed.

**Systemwide Course Review and Approval Policy**

In 2024-2025, UCEP considered how systemwide courses are defined and the committee drafted a document that includes the definition along with language from 2011 and 2014 guidelines. This year, the committee further refined what qualifies as a systemwide course and decided against extending the policy to systemwide programs because such programs are not clearly defined. The [policy](#) was finalized and approved in March 2026.

**Credit by Exam**

*College Board’s Validation of Evidence-Based Standard Setting*

In 2024-2025, the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) began contemplating the changes made by the College Board in 2022 to how Advanced Placement (AP) exams are scored. In November 2025, UCEP’s chair joined a BOARS meeting for a presentation by College Board representatives on the new Evidenced-Based Standard Setting (EBSS) process. Based on the

information the College Board provided about the EBSS methodology, BOARS, UCEP, and UCOPE agreed to bring the new scoring process to the attention of UC faculty so departments and programs can make reasoned decisions about how AP scores are used for credit by exam. The [joint memo](#) was submitted to Academic Council and transmitted to the divisions in January 2026.

#### *Policy on the Review of AP, IB, and A-Level Exams for Credit*

UCEP, BOARS, and the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) each review exams for different purposes and recommend cut scores. The chairs of UCEP and UCOPE joined the March 2026 BOARS meeting to discuss what should be included in a standardized evaluation rubric to be used by faculty to assess the exams. BOARS drafted a policy on reviewing AP, International Baccalaureate, and A-Level exams for credit with input from UCEP and UCOPE. The [joint policy](#) was finalized by BOARS in May 2026 and was subsequently transmitted to the divisional admission committee chairs.

#### **New UCEP White Paper**

In February 2026, began contemplating the development of a new UCEP white paper after observing that a variety of initiatives (e.g., the Global Language Network, the Degree Plus Pilot, and the UC Adaptation to Disruptions Task Force) touch on questions of educational quality, teaching modalities, evaluation and learning outcomes, and the impact of different factors such as disruptions and artificial intelligence. Vice Chair Duque facilitated a series of discussions about learning outcomes, quality of education, and metrics of success with particular attention to how that might vary across modality, subject area, or location. The goal is to produce a white paper that can serve as a common framework that allows the Senate to engage in debates and decision-making with administrators. The vice chair drafted a prospectus and shared a problem statement with the committee on June 15<sup>th</sup> and work on the white paper will continue in 2026-2027.

#### **UC Online**

This year, UCEP stayed abreast of multiple efforts in which UC Online has a central role including the Global Language Network, the Assessment Center Consortium (ACC), and the Equity Lab Project. In March 2026, the committee was joined by the chair of the ACC Task Force, Tricia Bertram Gallant, and the executive director of UC Online, Rolin Moe, for an update on the Network. UC Online convenes and staffs the ACC and engages with leadership around the system to facilitate the development of the assessment centers for students taking online courses. During this meeting, Executive Director Roe reported on the now defunct Equity Lab Project partnership between UC and the National Education Opportunity Network. UCEP members have concerns about UC Online being increasingly asked to support initiatives beyond its original role in online course development and cross-campus enrollment, especially when these efforts lacked sufficient Senate consultation. In April, Executive Director Moe met with the committee to review UC Online's 2024-2025 annual report and members had questions about the quality of the data the program is able to provide. In June, UCEP's chair shared the committee's concerns with Academic Council which were conveyed to the Vice Provost of Graduate, Undergraduate, and Equity Affairs, Yvette Gullatt, in a [July memo](#).

#### **New Federal Accreditation Rules**

In May, UCEP received a briefing from Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP) on the U.S. Department of Education recent release of new draft regulations that would change higher education accreditation processes by loosen the standards for who can be an accreditor and the requirements for being accredited. The draft new regulations also place the accrediting agencies

under tighter federal control raising concerns about issues such as self-governance and educational policy decisions. In June, UCEP held a discussion in Executive Session with the representatives of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), including President Maria Toyoda, to learn more about the proposed changes. The committee will monitor developments related to the proposed changes in 2026-2027.

### **Student Mental and Physical Well-Being**

In the fall, members raised concerns about the mental and physical well-being of students and the committee was eventually joined in June by UCOP's Director of Student Mental Health and Well-being, Genie Kim, and UCLA's Director of Counseling & Psychological Services, Nicole Presley, to learn about the services available on UC campuses. Members appreciated the overview of services but found that the presentation did not include information about the utilization or effectiveness. Therefore, UCEP will continue consulting with the Student Mental Health and Well-Being unit at UCOP in an effort to attain more granular facts.

### **Other Issues and Additional Business**

In response to requests for formal comment from the Academic Council, UCEP issued reviews of the following:

- UCAD Task Force's Interim Report
- The Presidential Interim Policy for the University of California's Use of Online Program Management Companies
- The Proposed Presidential Policy IMT-1300 Information Technology Accessibility
- UCD's Proposal for the Simple Name Change of the School of Veterinary Medicine
- Systemwide Senate Review of Proposal to Establish a Systemwide Academic Senate Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability
- Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Revisions to Senate Bylaw 192 and Senate Regulations 636 and 761
- UCSD's Proposal to Rename the School of Computing, Information and Data Sciences
- UCLA's Request for Amendment to Regulation A-304.A.3 and Repeal of Regulations A-304.A.4 and 452 Variances

UCEP touched on a variety of other issues related to the business of the Academic Council, Academic Assembly, the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS), and the work of campus Committees on Educational Policy/Undergraduate Councils.

### **UCEP Representation**

UCEP Chair Sugar represented the committee at meetings of the Academic Council and Academic Assembly. Chair Sugar also participated on the Provost's monthly budget briefing calls; the Academic Planning Council; ICAS; and the ICAS California General Education Transfer Curriculum Standards Review Subcommittee. Darlene Francis (UCM) represented UCEP on the UC Online Advisory Council; by Lily Hoang (UCSD) on the UC Washington Center's Academic Advisory and on the UC Education Abroad Advisory Board; and by Maia Young (UCI) and Tanner WouldGo (UCSC) on the Performance of Undergraduate Degree Programs Task Force.

### **Committee Consultations and Acknowledgements**

UCEP benefited from consultation with and reports from: Todd Greenspan, Executive Advisor, Academic Planning and Policy Development, Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP);

Carmen Corona, Director, Academic Planning and Policy, IRAP; Ethan Savage, Academic Planning and Policy Analyst, IRAP; and Rolin Moe, Executive Director, UC Online, Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity Affairs. In addition, UCEP consulted with the Academic Senate chair and vice-chair, who updated the committee on issues facing the Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

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