



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
Minutes of Videoconference
Monday, May 18, 2026

In attendance: Catherine Sugar, Chair (UCLA), Jason Duque, Vice Chair (UCSB), Darlene Francis (UCB), Gerardo Con Diaz (UCD), Maia Young (UCI), Luke Yarbrough (UCLA alternate), Susan Varnot (UCM), Gene Brewer (UCR), Giuliana Perrone (UCSB), Onuttom Narayan (UCSC alternate), Todd Greenspan (Executive Advisor, Academic Planning & Policy Development, Institutional Research & Academic Planning (IRAP)), Carmen Corona (Director, Academic Planning & Policy, IRAP), Ethan Savage (Academic Planning & Policy Analyst, IRAP), Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst)

I. Consent Calendar

Action: Today's agenda items and their priority were approved.

II. Chair's Announcements and Updates

The May 4th Academic Planning Council (APC) meeting included brief reports on the Global Language Network Initiative, the Performance of Undergraduate Degree Programs Task Force, and the UC Adaptation to Disruptions Plus (UCAD Plus) Task Force. A major focus of this meeting was on the proposed bills related to the Master Plan, several of which have died in committee. In general, legislators are concerned about gaps in higher education coverage in California, such that constituents in their areas are not getting equal access or the programs they need, and there is the perception that higher education is not meeting current workforce demands. An important issue is that there is insufficient funding to support all the higher education needs, so the legislature ends up pitting the segments against each other to some extent. Provost Newman mentioned that Governor Newsom is enthusiastic about the Degree Plus program and the provost sees UC Extension as a source of continuing education. UC Extension could have a role in UC's responses to disruptions, but this would require financing for it to grow, and it should also be noted that the way UC Extension interacts with the main campuses is highly variable. Finally, the APC was advised that updates to the Compendium may incorporate recommendations from UCAD Plus.

The Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) held its last meeting of this academic year on May 15th. Chair Palazoglu reported on meetings with various members of the legislature about the Master Plan as well as the ongoing concerns about common course numbering (CCN). ICAS also discussed the future of graduate education and the sustainability of our current model and international enrollments. Representatives of the Academic Senate of the California State University (CSU) shared that their Board of Trustees has approved several new 90-unit baccalaureate degrees, about which their faculty are concerned. The CSU's major goal is to compete with Arizona State University as it strives to recruit California residents into their online programs with in-state tuition. ICAS approved updates to the California General Education Transfer Curriculum along with a memo codifying the use of CCN templates for unit and general education credit approvals.

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

Analyst Savage shared that the work on updating the Compendium is unlikely to begin before spring 2027 because recommendations from the UCAD Plus Task Force may be relevant to the document.

The liaison responsibilities for UC Extension have been transferred from IRAP to Faculty Affairs and Academic Programs at UCOP. Analyst Savage will be on a team preparing a final report on the degree and certificate completion programs supported by \$15M in state funding in the 2018-2019 Budget Act.

Executive Advisor Greenspan provided a briefing on the history of the Master Plan, remarking that a national conversation about the meaning of a baccalaureate degree might be necessary.

IV. Ideas for New UCEP White Papers
Jason Duque, Vice Chair

Based on the committee's April 20th discussion, Vice Chair Duque drafted a statement that aims to clarify the problem UCEP is trying to solve with the white paper. The problem statement touches on the purposes of higher education, how preparation for citizenship and personhood differs from preparation for a particular job, and how considerations of equity and access take shape in the context of various modalities and artificial intelligence. Members were invited to point out what is on the right track or missing as well as elements requiring elaboration.

Discussion: Members expressed appreciation for Vice Chair Duque's work on the problem statement and noted the challenge of defining quality educational encounters across different modalities. Students and their families are looking for a return on their investment and need to be convinced of the added value of in-person education. The white paper has to address practical concerns while offering a pedagogical perspective. It is expensive to produce and support high quality online courses but UCEP should also consider the cost of not offering online education.

Thought should be given toward how the eventual white paper can be operationalized.

V. Executive Session

Minutes were not taken during Executive Session.

VI. Member Reports/Campus Updates

This item was not discussed.

The meeting adjourned at: 1:02 PM

Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams, Principal Policy Analyst

Attest: Catherine Sugar, Chair