



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
Minutes of Videoconference
Monday, May 4, 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), Jeffrey Meyer (UCR alternate), Mira Balberg (UCSD alternate), Giuliana Perrone (UCSB), 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), Ahmet Palazoglu (Chair, Academic Senate), Susannah Scott (Vice Chair, Academic Senate), Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst)

I. Consent Calendar

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

Action: UCEP's April 6th and April 20th videoconference minutes were approved.

II. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair & Susannah Scott, Vice Chair, Academic Senate

Chair Palazoglu indicated that the agenda for upcoming Board of Regents meeting includes the topics of research landscape and impact, environmental and financial sustainability, and the introduction of new regents. UCOP and the UAW are figuring out interpretation and implementation details of the new contract agreement, and negotiations with the AFT, which represents Unit 18 lecturers, will begin soon. During the April 9th Academic Assembly meeting, the nomination of the incoming vice chair, Amani Nuri-Jeter, former Divisional Chair of UC Berkeley, was approved. Academic Council's April 29th meeting included a conversation with President Milliken about the recent Report of the Yale Committee on Trust in Higher Education. The UC Adaptations to Disruptions Plus Task Force steering committee and workgroups meet later this week in-person with members of the Administrative Transformation Initiative. The report from the Performance of Undergraduate Degree Programs Task Force is being finalized and will undergo some preliminary reviews before it is distributed for systemwide review. Huron and Noodle have a contract with the Provost's Office to conduct a market study on opportunities to offer online courses to international students or out-of-state students who are unable to come to California. However, according to Vice Chair Scott, the consultants have distributed a survey to department chairs and deans to gather opinions about barriers to online education and they will visit campuses to learn more.

III. Chair's Announcements and Updates

This topic was not discussed.

IV. UCLA's Request for Amendment to Regulation A-304.A.3 & Repeal of Regulations A-304.A.4

& 452 Variances

Chair Sugar explained the reasons for UCLA's variances and request to amend regulation A-304.A.3 and repeal the variances of regulations A-304.A.4 and 452.

Action: A motion to approve the UCLA request to amend and repeal of regulations was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

- V. New Federal Accreditation Rules & Transfer Credit
Todd Greenspan, Executive Advisor, Academic Planning & Policy Development & Carmen Corona, Director, Academic Planning & Policy

In April, the U.S. Department of Education released a discussion draft of new regulations that would change higher education accreditation processes. The new rules loosen the standards for who can be an accreditor, the requirements for being accredited, and the rules for a school to change its accrediting body. The draft new regulations also place the accrediting agencies under tighter federal control, raising concerns about: self-governance; educational policy decisions; investigations around diversity, equity, and inclusion issues; and how credits from one accredited institution should transfer to any other accredited institution, especially with respect to general education or elective courses. The draft regulations will impose extra reporting burdens on the receiving institutions that refuse to accept credit transferring from another institution.

Director Corona reported that the Department of Education's draft new rules discourage the use of the term "regional accreditor" and that UC Legal is being consulted about what UC will need to do to comply with nomenclature changes. The new Accreditation, Innovation, and Modernization Committee may change the rules for recognition of accreditors which could impact how the WASC Western College and University Commission (WSCUC) standards are interpreted or revised over time. The federal regulations will tighten expectations around substantive change approvals for distance education. Finally, federal regulations will continue reinforcing accreditor responsibilities around teach-out plans, closures, and branch changes related to graduate programs' attainment of their fiscal targets. Federal government relations, not IRAP, is following the changes that involve the transfer of credits.

Director Corona announced the new UC Dialogue Fellows Program which is a collaboration with IRAP; Graduate, Undergraduate, and Equity Affairs; and the UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement. This pilot fellowship program for faculty and staff is part of a systemwide initiative to enhance and expand the teaching of dialogue skills to UC students. Funding and other support will be available to faculty and staff incorporating the teaching of dialogue skills in the curricular context and the program will prioritize projects that not only enhance individual teaching practice, but also produce adaptable, shareable resources, and approaches that can be used by other faculty and staff.

Discussion: Members remarked on the potential implications of the new regulations. Chair Sugar will bring this matter to the attention of Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates and Analyst Abrams will invite a WSCUC representative to an upcoming UCEP videoconference.

A question related to the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools is whether UC will be forced to accept credits from students transferring from institutions with problematic accreditors.

UCEP members are encouraged discuss the new draft rules with the accreditation liaison officer at their campus. UCEP should start compiling a list of the potential impacts on UC.

VI. Feedback on the Proposed Revisions to Senate Bylaw (SB) 192 & Senate Regulations (SR) 636 & 761

Chair Sugar explained that SR 192 and SRs 636 and 761 are being revised in an effort to re-envision the role of the University Committee on Preparatory Education especially following the elimination of the systemwide Analytical Writing Placement Exam. The UCM representative has thoroughly reviewed the proposed revisions and drafted a memo for the committee's approval.

Discussion: Members considered the terminology related to multilingual students and the use of "remedial" in the bylaws and regulations. The UCM representative will incorporate the feedback from today's discussion and the draft memo will be shared with the committee before the May 18th meeting.

VII. Executive Session: UC Online Follow-Up

In keeping with past practice, no minutes were taken during Executive Session.

VIII. Member Reports/Campus Updates

The meeting adjourned at: 1:10 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams, Principal Policy Analyst

Attest: Catherine Sugar, Chair