



UNIVERSITY  
OF CALIFORNIA Academic  
Senate

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY  
Minutes of Videoconference  
Monday, June 15, 2026

In attendance: Catherine Sugar, Chair (UCLA), Jason Duque, Vice Chair (UCSB), Gerardo Con Diaz (UCD), Maia Young (UCI), Jeff Maloy (UCLA), 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), Ahmet Palazoglu (Chair, Academic Senate), Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst)

- I. Consultation with the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC)  
*Maria Toyoda, President; Evelyn Somoza, Director, Communications; Noah Sudow, Strategic Advisor, Communications and Government Affairs, Whiteboard Advisors; & Alex Davis, Senior Director, K-12 and higher education issues, Whiteboard Advisors*

This topic was discussed in Executive Session.

- II. Consent Calendar

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

Action: UCEP's May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup> videoconference minutes were approved.

- III. Chair's Announcements and Updates

Chair Sugar reported that Vice Chair Duque will serve as chair and UCM Representative Varnot will serve as vice chair in 2026-2027. The minutes from June 1<sup>st</sup> and today's meeting will be sent along with the annual report to the members by email for approval. Academic Assembly's June 11<sup>th</sup> agenda included updates on the federal digital accessibility requirements, the new lawsuit against UCLA, and the report from the UC Adaptations to Disruptions Task Force. President Milliken has created a task force to look for ways clinical faculty can participate in health system governance and a task force on artificial intelligence. The president also remarked on the Master Plan and the importance of entering a new compact with the next governor. Provost Newman reported on new collaborative research funding initiatives with international universities and governmental agencies. Chair Sugar described the plan for the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools to review the use of standardized tests for admissions as well as the A-G subject area requirements.

- IV. 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 announced the upcoming congress, “Shaping Global Futures, International Education in the California Context,” and Director Corona shared that the UC Dialogue Fellows Program will start accepting applications for \$5K grants on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Executive Advisor Greenspan reported that IRAP has been working with the campuses on their multi-year enrollment plans for the 2027-2028 academic year. The three campuses receiving state money to buy-down non-resident student enrollment are likely to continue to reduce the numbers of these students if the next state budget includes the necessary funding. A couple of campuses are falling short of meeting the ratio of one transfer student for every two first year students but the statements of intent to register from transfer students for this fall have increased over recent years.

#### V. Executive Session

Minutes were not taken during Executive Session.

#### VI. New UCEP White Papers *Jason Duque, Vice Chair*

Vice Chair Duque shared a new statement of the problem that the white paper aims to address: “What is missing is a shared account of what is actually at stake. Without a principled account of what an educational encounter is, including what relational and social conditions make it generative, and how those conditions vary across modalities, the University of California has no basis for evaluating the tradeoffs it is making, no shared language for the design conversations that must happen at every level of the institution, and no foundation for the accountability mechanisms that quality assurance requires. The risk is not that UC will make a single bad decision. It is that, in the absence of a shared framework, the cumulative drift of many individually defensible decisions will quietly erode what distinguishes a UC education from any other well-resourced provider of instruction.” Two questions for the committee are who are the target audience(s) for this white paper and what aspect(s) of the multidimensional problem UCEP has discussed carry the most leverage.

Discussion: Members appreciate the problem statement and believe there are likely multiple audiences for the new white paper. The white paper can be valuable to faculty on divisional Undergraduate Councils (UgCs)/Committees on Educational Policy (CEPs) as they develop policies and will provide a universal standard to reference as justification for those policies. The Centers for Teaching and Learning (CTLs) could be partners for supporting what UCEP considers to be a UC educational encounter. The white paper may help campus provosts understand the faculty perspective, and the Senate’s position, on decisions made about the educational experience. Chair Sugar noted that some functions are being moved out of departments to CTLs so the paper could help them understand how meaningful partnerships with faculty can be. Campus committees on courses of instruction might find the white paper helpful as the guidelines they currently use for approving online and hybrid courses are insufficient. A member remarked on how administrators use equity and access as a justification for increasing online instruction without acknowledging other potential benefits and costs to the campus (financial or otherwise).

#### VII. Member Reports/Campus Updates

UCSC: This year, the divisional committee circulated a proposed policy about online programs for feedback and received a lot of comments. After learning about policies at UCI and UCSD that limit

online units that may count towards in-person programs, the committee asked the registrar's office to develop the tools needed to do this at UCSC. The proposed recommendation to label remotely-delivered degree programs as "online" on the diploma has been met with assertions that this is not permissible. Instead of adding the label to diplomas, the "online" designation could be included in the course catalog so fully online programs will be easily and clearly identifiable.

UCM: The chairs of the Graduate Council and CEP drafted a policy regarding online education and solicited feedback from faculty across the campus. The representative will share the draft with UCEP. The UCSB representative indicated that this division's policies for online education have been approved and will be publicly available soon.

UCLA: Summer courses are almost exclusively online, and the campus is preparing for significant discussions over the next few years, especially as the Olympics approach, about whether and to what extent summer session is viewed differently. The UCSC representative remarked that this division has concluded that summer courses count the same as academic year courses and will be held to the same standard. The UCLA administration has created task forces on graduate student employment, doctoral education, and the sustainability of undergraduate education and there has been criticism that the Senate was not adequately consulted/included.

UCSB: The divisional committee has concerns about the impact the new labor contracts for graduate students will have on the ability to offer courses for undergraduates in the traditional way.

UCI: The local committee is discussing the predicament students face when dealing with the requirement to take 50% of their courses in-person, but the in-person offerings are limited. The math department has successfully reconfigured its Calculus 2A course and reduced the number of Ds, Fs, and withdrawals. The number of students attending the Calculus 2A class in person has also increased.

#### VIII. New Business

Chair Sugar will notify the members if the July meeting will be necessary.

The meeting adjourned at: 1:00 PM

Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams, Principal Policy Analyst

Attest: Catherine Sugar, Chair