



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Academic Senate

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY Minutes of Videoconference Monday, October 6, 2025

In attendance: Catherine Sugar, Chair (UCLA), Jason Duque, Vice Chair (UCSB), Darlene Francis (UCB), David Kyle (UCD), Maia Young (UCI), Jeffrey Maloy (UCLA), Susan Varnot (UCM), Ruhi Khan (UCR), Lily Hoang (UCSD), Nailyn Rasool (UCSF), Giuliana Perrone (UCSB), Tanner WouldGo (UCSC), Todd Greenspan (Executive Advisor for 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), Ahmet Palazoglu (Chair, Academic Senate), Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Sugar welcomed everyone to the first UCEP meeting of the 2025-2026 academic year and members introduced themselves.

II. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair, Academic Council

President Milliken joined Academic Council's first meeting of this academic year on September 21st and explained UC's response to the federal government's demands on UCLA and UC's compliance with the Department of Education Office of Civil Rights' requirement that it produce case files and incident reports with the names of UCB students, faculty, and staff. Council received updates on contract negotiations with various unions and approved a revision to Academic Personnel Manual (APM) 750 to add Mathematics Teaching Fellows to the policy. The Regents Finance Committee received a presentation from Chief Financial Officer Brostrom on the general budget outlook for 2026-2027, employer contributions to healthcare, and the tuition stability plan. Provost Newman informed the Academic and Student Affairs Committee about the Degree Plus pilot initiative. The Degree Plus initiative will not change how students earn degrees but units for the Extension certificates they earn may compromise financial aid eligibility. These students may also face longer time to degree.

The Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) met in September and identified priorities for the year ahead including advocacy for higher education and improving student success by clarifying and aligning transfer processes. The interim report from the Task Force on UC Adaptations to Disruptions (UCAD) is out for systemwide review and this task force is being reconfigured under Provost Newman to include administrators. The University Committee on Privilege and Tenure will be working on revisions to APM policies and will work on the structure of the systemwide privilege and tenure network, which will be finalized by the Regents in January.

III. Consent Calendar

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

IV. Chair's Announcements and Updates

Chair Sugar reviewed UCEP's charge and emphasized the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of the committee's discussions. Members are expected to inform their local committees about topics under consideration by UCEP. Analyst Abrams has provided a link to frequently used acronyms and members should familiarize themselves with the guidelines for using chat during videoconferences. Chair Sugar explained the involvement of ICAS with the California Community College (CCC)-led common course numbering (CCN) project. The CCN effort is difficult because it is challenging to align courses across the CCC campuses that are acceptable for certain kinds of credit at California State University (CSU) and UC. The Academic Senate of the CCCs is eager to have UC faculty involved with the review of the templates that have been created to replace the course outlines of record. The California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) is a standard set of courses CCC students can take before transferring to UC or the CSU system. One problem related to Cal-GETC that needs to be addressed is whether CCC students will be allowed to have partial certification which is favored by CCC and UC but opposed by CSU. Issues related to course articulation and course credit between UC campuses will be significant topics for UCEP this year. Analyst Abrams mentioned that UCEP will often make decisions based on consensus but will formally vote on significant matters. The IRAP consultants will provide updates during the committee's second meeting of the month.

V. Global Language Network Initiative

Chair Sugar provided an overview of the Global Language Network (GLN) Initiative, noting that Vice Chair Duque will serve on the Initiative task force. The GLN Initiative has been organized by the humanities deans and UC Online, with the approval Provost Newman. The goal of the GLN is to expand undergraduate access to language classes, especially less commonly taught languages which have trouble reaching viable class sizes because they are taken by few students. These language classes are in real danger of being eliminated under the current stresses on budget and faculty time. The goal is to make the classes available online so students across many campuses can take them. This will help maintain the viability of the courses while also giving students at all campuses access to all the different languages that are offered at UC, instead of just the ones that are available at their home campus.

In order to make this idea workable students must know that they will receive not just unit credit for those language classes but credit towards the language requirement that many divisions have, or general education and major credit where appropriate. The question of whether campuses will accept language courses taught at other campuses for different types of credit is not a simple matter because divisions and departments have autonomy and authority to determine what courses meet their standards. The GLN Initiative Task Force, to be chaired by UCLA Humanities Dean Alexandra Stern, will try to establish agreements between campuses in order to launch this program. The first phase will focus on language courses that already have an online version and just need the articulation agreements to be established by January. In addition to the challenge of getting the agreements in place for cross-acceptance of courses, it will also be necessary to assess the online courses to ensure quality is maintained.

Proponents of the GLN view this Initiative as a way to keep languages struggling for enrollment alive, to give students options to meet requirements, and to protect against budget cuts and loss of faculty in those departments. However, there are also job security and teaching economy

implications. UCEP wants to make sure that there is balance across campuses, so those with bigger language programs do not cannibalize smaller programs at other campuses. The GLN started as an administrative rather than a faculty initiative without a lot of early consultation with the Senate, which is of some concern given the rush to implementation. The original thinking was that UCEP could pass a rule saying that credit should be given across the campuses but the committee does not have the authority to do this. UCEP can encourage cooperative deals among the campuses and will need to be involved in negotiations about this program.

Discussion: The UCAD Task Force's interim report briefly touches on synthesizing and moving courses online, raising concerns that after administrators start with a project that is sensible, there will be a precedent for doing the same with other small programs across and within campuses. This approach will affect different disciplines in different ways including the ability of graduate students to complete required work in the program at their own campus. Rumors are spreading in language departments that have already seen this type of consolidation, so having more clarity about what is actually being planned and about how decisions will be made about which languages will go online is critical.

Chair Sugar commented on how difficult it is to eliminate a pilot program once students are enrolled, and because the GLN has not been formalized it is important that UCEP have a representative on the task force to raise these issues before the plan is finalized. In initial conversations with Dean Stern, Chair Sugar has been advised that the aim is to make sure every campus offers some of these online courses so they share the benefits as well as costs. Making language courses with smaller interest groups available online is reasonable and will benefit students but the trick is balancing the upsides with the downsides so negative consequences are minimized. The GLN Initiative has positive aspects, such as increasing access, but it is critical to maintain face-to-face language instruction.

Vice Chair Duque emphasized the importance of being explicit about the true goals of the GLN Initiative and about the real needs being addressed rather than potential benefits. Pedagogical excellence should be the main criterion for decisions about the mode of instruction. Faculty acknowledge the need to adapt and change, but it is unclear whether language faculty were involved with the GLN proposal and why the timeline for launching this Initiative is so aggressive. At UCSC, the language program received a 23.5% reduction for this academic year, leading to the elimination of German and Persian and cuts to Arabic, Spanish, Italian, French, Chinese, and Japanese instruction. When UCSC faculty learned about the GLN, it was perceived as a top-down, administratively driven initiative with UC Online being the panacea to some of the problems language programs are experiencing, so building trust with faculty will be essential.

VI. Systemwide Review Items

Chair Sugar explained that UCEP will have the opportunity to opine on proposed policies and one or two members will take the lead on reading a proposal and presenting the pros and cons to the rest of the committee. Some proposed policies will not be relevant to UCEP's charge and the committee will not opine, and examples of these are included in the agenda. UCEP will provide feedback on the UCAD Task Force's Interim Report, the Presidential Interim Policy for the University of California's Use of Online Program Management (OPM) Companies, and the Proposed Presidential

Policy IMT-1300 Information Technology Accessibility. Chair Sugar has started drafting a memo on the UCAD interim report and UCEP will discuss this on October 20th.

Discussion: The UCLA representative will work with Chair Sugar on the memo on the UCAD interim report. In the process of reviewing the proposed policy, the reader should make notes that will be the basis for the committee's memo. The OPM policy is largely about legal issues related to the program management companies which are not currently used for undergraduate courses.

VII. Representatives for External Committees/Workgroups

Members should let Chair Sugar and Analyst Abrams know if they are willing to represent UCEP on various external committees, workgroups, and task forces.

VIII. Priorities and Goals for 2025-2026

Chair Sugar shared a list of topics UCEP will consider throughout the year, some of which carry over from last year including: online instruction; articulation of courses with the CCCs; course credit across the campuses as it relates to the GLN initiative and the UC Washington Center and UC Sacramento Center; transfer issues including associate degrees for transfer; artificial intelligence (AI); credit by exam in collaboration with the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools and the University Committee on Preparatory Education; guidance for students who may not be able to complete their degree on a UC campus; updating UCEP's guidelines on the approval and review of systemwide courses and programs; revising the committee's 2010 white paper on undergraduate student participation in research; and monitoring the task force that is considering an assessment center network which dovetails with concerns about academic dishonesty in online courses.

IX. Member Reports/Campus Updates

UCB: The Undergraduate Management Committee (UMC) is focusing on the increased volume of requests for disability accommodations and pressure to allow students to take all of their courses online. The UMC is trying to manage this issue on behalf of both students and faculty. Another topic is accommodating student athletes.

UCLA: A special legislative assembly meeting was held last week to discuss the federal demand letter and the assembly voted unanimously to ask the administration to release the letter to faculty. The Undergraduate Council (UGC) members have prioritized the following issues for this year: budget; the future of graduate education; the impact of changes in graduate enrollment numbers on undergraduate education; and AI.

UCM: The UGC is interested in budgetary issues; AI; retention; oversight of Extension; increasing costs for teaching assistants and Unit 18 lecturers; and testing centers. This campus just received R1 status and there are questions about how the federal budget will impact research on campus.

UCD: The local committee has heard from campus information technology representatives about the integration of AI into various tools and from the office that handles student misconduct about the role emerging technology plays with academic dishonesty. The discussions about AI have not touched on the need for faculty training. A proposal from the federal government to limit international students to four years recently came to the committee's attention.

UCSD: The committee is considering testing centers; difficulties working with the Disabled Student Program (DSP) office; instructors using AI to grade coursework; and military exceptions.

UCSB: This campus is very understaffed and this is impacting the ability of undergraduates to receive academic advising as well as DSP accommodations. The staffing situation is related to the high cost of living in Santa Barbara. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have been on campus and in classrooms leading to discussions about how to protect students especially in the absence of guidance from UCOP. The campus is also facing a unique budgetary deficit due to longstanding structural shortfalls.

UCI: The committee is discussing instructional modalities and AI including the integration of AI into a growing number of web browsers. Instructors have been prompted to closely evaluate the information in their syllabi regarding how AI is being used in the course and students' use of AI.

Undergraduate Student Representative: AI is a concern for students across the system. UCLA has been a target of the federal government and there is anxiety about academic freedom. The distribution of revenue from non-academic units is under consideration.

X. New Business/Executive Session

No New Business was introduced and Executive Session was not held.

The meeting adjourned at: 1 PM

Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams, Principal Policy Analyst

Attest: Catherine Sugar, Chair