UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA
Academic
Senate

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting

April 16, 2025

Attendance: Po-Ning Chen, Chair (UCR); Gustavo Manso, UCB; Susan Keen, UCD; Susan Varnot, UCM; Jianzhong Wu, UCR; Padro Cabrales Arevalo, UCSD; Brian Dolan, UCSF; John Tamkun, UCSC; Maya Botros, Undergraduate Student Representative

I.   **Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership**
        Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Council Vice Chair
        •   The Academic Council supported Susannah Scott, UCSB, as the next Council Vice Chair. The Academic Assembly will vote to ratify next week.
        •   Changes to the bylaw for the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) designed to better codify consultation expectations with K-12 leadership will go before the Assembly next week, too.
        •   The Council endorsed and posted a statement on Defense of the University.
        •   The joint Senate-administration workgroup investigating faculty discipline procedures and APM 015, 016 is preparing to present its next round of findings to the Regents in May.
        •   The Senate is seeking to expand remote instruction options for those impacted by issues relating to visas but who need to complete their degree.
        •   At the March Regents meeting, 1) President Drake presented a statement of UC values yet maintained a veritable hiring freeze, although exceptions are possible; 2) action was taken to eliminate stand-alone diversity statements during the recruitment and hiring process, but such statements can still be considered in merit and promotion reviews; 3) the UCR Health Clinical Enterprise proposal was well-received, but there are many operational and financial details still to finalize.
        •   The systemwide Vice President for Research and Innovation is meeting weekly with the campus Vice Chancellors for Research to strategize regarding loss of federal research funds. Identifying new fund sources is still a challenge.
        •   The new University Committee on Adaptations to Disruptions (UCAD) has begun meeting and will consult with administrators for additional context. A UCAD website and further communications are forthcoming.

- The Academic Assembly 1) declined to endorse a motion to move certain administrators' salary action start date from July 1 to October 1 to match the faculty salary action state date; 2) declined to support the movement toward a single systemwide academic calendar; 3) was unable to vote on a proposal opposing the new cybersecurity policy due to loss of quorum.
- The UCSF memorials seeking Senate membership for adjuncts and clinical faculty with at least a 50% appointment did not receive adequate divisional support to move to a full faculty vote.
- The Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS), which coordinates the CCCs, the CSUs, and the UC transfer guidelines, held their annual Legislative Day earlier this month. Greater financial support for streamlining the transfer application process and for greater on-campus support services for transfer students was discussed as usual, as was still greater coordination between the three higher education segments. The segments should increase their reporting out of successes and improvements.
- Several senior leadership searches are in progress: 1) The Presidential search is to the stage of interviewing finalists; 2) The Provost has made an offer to the selected candidate to become the new Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Programs; 3) The UCSB Chancellor search is nearing closure, and President Drake hopes to make an announcement before he steps down June 30; The UCR Chancellor search is also in the finalist interview stage.
- Outcomes from the Benefits Study should be available by the end of the calendar year.

  Members noted that more resources to help students at risk in the current political environment were needed, as well as more detailed and more frequent communications on the evolving situation.
  Members also questioned enrollment growth plans given the unfavorable budget situation on top of other destabilizing circumstances.

II. **Proposal to Sunset UCOPE**
Members have discussed the proposal with their campus counterpart committees, and several themes have emerged. The ability of other groups to absorb the workload and address it with subject-matter expertise is doubtful at many campuses. Having a standing committee enables better access to administrators, especially in relatively niche areas. The increasing need for STEM preparatory education assessments suggests that revisiting the UCOPE bylaw would be more useful to the system than sunsetting the body.
Any revisions to the bylaw should reflect current circumstances, such as the use of AI in writing and improved placement practices for STEM fields not previously governed by name. Further, support services for students revisiting the preparation process should be enhanced, and high school preparatory activities should be reevaluated, especially given the documented COVID learning loss phenomenon. UCOPE might consider

empaneling a STEM placement subcommittee of SMEs similar to the ECC and EMS AG. Whether admission standards need to be reconsidered overall should be discussed with other cognizant Senate bodies.

III.   Campus Updates
Note: Item not addressed.

IV.   EWLR Coordinating Council Deliverables
With Madeleine Sorapure, ECC Chair
ECC Chair Sorapure reminded members of the expected contents of the summary reports each campus is preparing for this first year of Council operations, such as methods of how ELWR was satisfied, self-placement trends, placement test administration practices, funding, and outcomes. Use of standardized tests for ELWR satisfaction is clarified on the admissions website, but changes to AP scoring methodologies could impact placement practices and will need to be evaluated carefully. Overlap in work scope with the English for Multilingual Students Advisory Group (EMS AG) should also be considered given the co-location of EMS programs and courses with ELWR programs and courses and possibly overlapping faculty. Where there is no overlap between the two is also worthy of discussion and outcome assessment. Access to campus data, and comparing data across the campuses, remains a challenge due to legacy software systems and a lack of central funding both for placement and assessment. Further complicating data evaluation are discrepancies between quarter and semester campuses, course taking patterns, and staffing and programmatic changes initiated during COVID but whose long-term impacts are still being identified.
Members encouraged the inclusion of longitudinal data, to the degree available, ideally on a five-year rolling basis, if not longer. Usage of ELWR fees should also be more transparent and consistent across the campuses.

V.   New Business and Further Discussion
None.

Adjournment: 1:05pm

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Policy Analyst

Attest: Po-Ning Chen, UCOPE Chair