

University Committee on Preparatory Education

Minutes of Meeting

April 18, 2024

I. Chair's Announcements

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Minutes of January 18, 2024 Videoconference
The minutes were approved as noticed.
3. UCOPE English for Multi-Lingual Students (EMS) Advisory Group Update
The group has concerns about artificial intelligence and the consistency of placement practices across the system. There are also concerns about enrollment rates EMS programs and program funding.
4. Digital SAT and the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR)
Use of the digital SAT to satisfy ELWR is not approved, but scores are being submitted. Reported scores should be distinguishable from written SAT score submission. The Office of the President's Office of Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP) is examining student success outcomes pre- and post-the SAT admission requirement, but not digital SAT outcomes.

II. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

James Steintrager, Academic Council Chair

Steve Cheung, Academic Council Vice Chair

- Online education: The Regents recently voted down the Senate's proposal to establish a formal campus experience requirement and voted to reaffirm campus autonomy to establish undergraduate degree programs. Enrollment in online courses, though, carries different student FTE calculations and could impact accreditation. The need to balance innovation and learning outcomes is clear. The provost is convening a congress on online education next month, and the president's task force investigating instructional modalities has a September deadline.
- Website policy: The Regents will consider a revised proposal to govern use of university webpages next month. The revisions are an improvement, but the Senate feels its current guidelines are sufficient.
- Standardized testing: The use of standardized tests in admission decisions is making headlines again as some universities are reinstating such requirements. IRAP is generating data to illustrate the impact of UC's decision to eliminate the requirement.

III. UCOPE Business

1. ELWR Coordinating Council (ECC)

- a. Nominating the Chair: The workload and support available should be clear. Support could come in the form of funds from the ELWR fees, but not every campus charges them and at least one campus is in the red. Fee imposition and level could impact equity outcomes, too. Senate members do have a service obligation, and previous roles of this type have not been compensated. IRAP will be available to provide data.
 - b. Annual Report Timeline and Content: The timeline may depend on when data can be made available. The first task of the ECC will be determine what data it will require. Hopefully the report can be submitted for consideration at the January 2025 UCOPE meeting.
2. UCOPE By-Law
 Given the ECC and the EMS Advisory Group, does UCOPE still have a stand-alone role? UCOPE could convene fewer meetings going forward. The need to assess preparatory education will remain. At one campus, ~1200 students failed a chemistry placement test; an online remediation course was developed, but without education experts, student success outcomes will continue to diverge. It's unclear how UC admits underprepared students, but the university has an obligation to assist them once enrolled. The ability of local committees on education policy/undergraduate councils to take on oversight of this task, too, is unclear, although only 3 campuses retain an independent preparatory education committee. Working more closely with admission offices and better use of ELWR data could help diagnostics, which is needed more than placement, especially given grade inflation in high schools. Cost and time-to-degree could be impacted by post-enrollment redress of preparation gaps, though. Summer courses could be developed, but resources are lacking.
3. Systemwide Review Item:
Second Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Senate Regulation 424.A.3 (Area H)
 Members noted that access to courses of UC quality could vary by school district. No evidence as submitted that ethnic studies courses are detrimental to students, but good evidence was submitted that critical thinking skills and questioning historical narratives help prepare students to be global citizens. The timing of the proposal was discussed: UC could be leader in the field by setting standards, or the state requirement could take effect, be assessed, and then reconsidered, if need be. UC might be able to assist districts develop courses if its standards are clear in advance. Students might gain more value from a baccalaureate course.
 UCOPE will support the proposal while acknowledging the access concerns. Chair Solomon and Analyst Feer will draft a memo for electronic approval.
4. Mathematics Preparation
- a. BOARS Area C Workgroup: The workgroup continues and its report is expected to be submitted for consideration at the Board of Admission and Relations with Schools' (BOARS) June meeting.
 - b. Transfer Pathways: A new transfer model curriculum (TMC) and UC Transfer Pathway should be available at UCOPE's June meeting.
 - c. UCOPE's Role: A parallel to the ECC could be established, but there are no math placement directors at the campuses. Specialists should be invited to

future meetings to help illustrate needs and options. Vice Chair Chen has been investigating the issue and will report out next meeting.

IV. Further Discussion and New Business

- Funding jeopardy and potential structural changes have put at least one campus writing program in limbo. Faculty oversight of the program could be at risk.

Adjournment 2:30 pm

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Analyst

Attest: Amanda Solomon Amaraο, UCOPE Chair

Attendance:

Amanda Solomon Amaraο, Chair

Pο-Ning Chen, Vice Chair

Steven Lee, UCB

Susan Keen, UCD

Brad Queen, UCI

Steve Margulis, UCLA

Felicia Lopez, UCM

Jianzhong Wu, UCR

Guershοn Harel, UCSD

Brian Dolan, UCSF

Jason Duque, UCSB

John Tamkun, UCSC