



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting

January 16, 2025

Attendance: Po-Ning Chen, Chair; Bradly Queen, Vice Chair; Susan Keen, UCD; Kelly Kay, UCLA; Susan Varnot, UCM; Jianzhong Wu, UCR; Pedro Cabrales Arevalo, UCSD; Brian Dolan, UCSF; Giuliana Perrone, UCSB; John Tamkun, UCSC; Maya Botros, Undergraduate Student Representative

I. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Steve Cheung, Academic Council Chair

Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Council Vice Chair

- Some Regents have raised concerns over the faculty discipline process following recent protests on the campuses. The Senate will present an overview of policies and practices at the January Regents meeting.
- The Academic Assembly met in December and 1) approved and conveyed to the Provost a statement on UC Quality in academics; 2) deferred further consideration of an ethnic studies admission requirement pending more information on high school budget outlooks. A special Assembly meeting will occur tomorrow and focus on cybersecurity policy changes, the timing of faculty salary actions, and health insurance premiums.
- Proposed changes to Senate Regulation 479 (Cal-GETC) were partially endorsed: A simpler science requirement was advanced, but the deferral of GE courses was postponed pending more information on course-taking patterns and possible downstream impacts.
- Changes to SR 627 (Awarding of Degrees Posthumously) were deferred as respondents raised concerns about consultation with the families involved, possible good standing concerns, and whether the changes constituted systemwide overreach.
- Additional funds for the Mortgage Origination Program will be distributed later this month following last fall's unprecedented uptake.
- The Davis division is conducting a vote of no confidence in President Drake.
- A joint Senate-administration committee has been empaneled to investigate possible changes to the timing of faculty salary range adjustments. Some assert that delaying faculty increases until October 1, while other employee groups receive

increases on July 1, disadvantages faculty through the cumulative loss of interest, despite retroactivity.

- The UCSF division has submitted memorials to grant Senate membership to adjuncts and clinicians with more than 50% time at UC. If enough Senate divisions with enough faculty (as determined by Senate bylaws) endorse the proposals, a full Senate vote will occur.
- Open searches for senior leaders include: 1) the systemwide President, 2) the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Programs, 3) chancellors for UCR and UCSB.

Members noted that local faculty participation in the chancellor searches has been inconsistent which could threaten the legitimacy of the process.

- Another joint Senate-administration workgroup will be formed to further consider fully online degree programs. Some have already suggested a pilot program, but implementation, quality, and student assessments must all be considered first.
- A joint Senate-administration workgroup has begun meeting to consider a single systemwide academic calendar. The costs of changing and of staying the same will both be considered. Podium days and impacts to research calendars will also be considered.
- Review of APM 015, 016 (Faculty Discipline) Phase I has been completed, and no policy changes were recommended. Phase II will investigate simultaneous merit and disciplinary actions.

II. Proposal to Sunset UCOPE

Members

Feedback to the proposal will be considered by the Academic Council later this month. Members noted that UCOPE supervises specialty functions and could be called upon to do more in other areas beyond academic English. The ability of other systemwide standing committees to absorb UCOPE duties is unclear. Amending and expanding the UCOPE bylaw may be a better path forward. Analyst Feer will draft a response memo.

III. ELWR Coordinating Council (ECC) Deliverables

With ECC Chair Sorapure

ECC plans to submit summary data for each campus annually, and each year, three undergraduate campuses will submit a more detailed report, setting up a three-year cycle for workload considerations; campuses will use the same templates for the annual and the triennial reports to ensure consistent content and presentation. Assistance may be required to access the data needed to determine ELWR satisfaction methods and overlaps since students self-report outside test scores and many campuses now allow directed self-placement (DSP) into writing courses. The use of ELWR administration fees needs greater transparency, and UOCPE's assistance may need to be enlisted. The need for central support for ELWR administration and/or related data collection and analysis has been raised.

Members noted that DSP could be increasing costs if students put themselves into ELWR courses unnecessarily; such a practice could also impact time-to-degree considerations. Any changes to AP scoring methodologies could also have impacts on testing rates and course section offerings. UCOPE should send notification to the campuses that their cooperation in generating data and providing any needed staff support is expected for this important Senate activity; indeed, the state requires a report on ELWR outcomes annually.

IV. Campus Updates

UCD- Administration of the writing program is in flux. The Provost is seeking to move the program out of the current academic department to an administrative unit. The impact to faculty FTE is unknown.

V. New Business and Further Discussion

None.

Adjournment: 12:20 pm

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Analyst

Attest: Po-Ning Chen, UCOPE Chair