

University Committee on Preparatory Education

Minutes of Meeting

June 20, 2024

I. **Chair's Announcements**

1. Minutes of April 18, 2024

The minutes were approved as noticed.

2. Chair's Announcements

The chair and vice chair of the ELWR Coordinating Council have been secured, and the committee now has representatives from each undergraduate campus.

II. **Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership**

James Steintrager, Academic Council Chair

Steve Cheung, Academic Council Vice Chair

- From the Regents: 1) Julio Frenk was appointed as the new chancellor of UCLA, beginning in January 2025. 2) The next chair of the board will be Janet Reilly, and Maria Anguiano will be vice chair. Rich Leib will become chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. 3) The state budget projections are still unfavorable, but increases to the faculty scales will continue as planned. Positive stock market returns should allow continued borrowing from STIP/TRIP to fill in budget gaps. 4) The proposed policy on discretionary website usage is still pending. 5) A presentation on math preparation is scheduled for the next Regents meeting. The Senate committee on admissions has recently received a report from a dedicated working group investigating whether changes should be made to the relevant Senate regulations. While no changes to the standards were recommended, a reevaluation of the courses deemed to validate the Algebra II standards was suggested. UC will continue to recommend a 4th year of mathematics/quantitative reasoning. Some students may benefit from data literacy courses or computer science courses, but sequential higher math courses should also be encouraged as appropriate.
- The proposed Area H (Ethnic Studies) admission requirement is still under consideration. Implementation and opportunity costs will be discussed at the next Academic Council meeting. The basic academic and social value of the proposal seems answered, but compliance capacity is uncertain.
- At the state legislature: 1) proposed ACA 6, which would have required UC to follow state labor laws without exception, potentially jeopardizing clinical training or certain research processes, did not advance out of committee. It is likely that similar bills will be filed in the future. 2) proposed AB 1905, which would remove retreat rights from administrators involved in sexual

violence/sexual harassment cases, is still under consideration. The legislation would not apply to UC, but considerations regarding reversal after appeal and confidentiality raise concerns at UC. 3) proposed SB 1287 would ban calls for genocide at institutions of higher education. UC is not taking a position, but First Amendment considerations have been raised.

- Regarding academic labor issues, a temporary restraining order was issued by state courts to halt strikes on the campuses; further review is scheduled on June 27. Educational continuity is a priority, but there are complicated legal issues involved. Preparation for the next round of full contract negotiations are under way, and a faculty advisory committee has been convened to work with the administration. Distinguishing between education and work on a research project remains a challenge.

III. UCOPE Business

1. ELWR Coordinating Council

The ECC leadership should be invited to the fall UCOPE meeting to share the goals and structure of the report they will be asked to submit. They should also determine the data needed to complete the report and confirm the following year's roster. Topics to cover in the report include ELWR fee usage, the different modalities used and their justifications, and placement efficacy outcomes.

2. UCOPE Bylaw

Reference to the AWPE will be removed per the draft submitted by Chair Solomon and forwarded to the Academic Council for review.

3. Mathematics Preparation

a. UCOPE Math Placement Survey

In 2022-23 UCOPE conducted a survey of math placement practices, and Vice Chair Chen presented the findings. Learning loss and lack of consistency make assessment difficult.

b. BOARS Area C Workgroup Debrief

With Barbara Knowlton, BOARS Chair

The workgroup was charged to assess whether data science and data literacy courses contained enough advanced math content to validate for Algebra II content, already considered a barrier course. It was determined that most such data courses, including statistics, did not rely enough on core concepts and so should not validate Algebra II content. Even though fewer than 1% of applicants did not take a course that (still) validates Algebra II content, it is important to be clear what courses are deemed to prepare students for college-level quantitative analysis, especially in STEM fields. Colleagues from the California State University were included in the second phase of the workgroup's proceedings to ensure that adequate preparation standards were agreed upon and promulgated, particularly for the recommended 4th math course. Additional questions about geometry validation remain because some students complete the course before high school so it does not show on their transcript.

c. Transfer Pathways

Note: Item not addressed.

d. UCOPE's Role

How UCOPE can ensure consistency and successful outcomes is unclear, but important.

4. 24-25 Goals

Note: Item not addressed.

IV. Further Discussion and New Business

None.

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Analyst

Attest: Amanda Solomon Amarao

Attendance:

Amanda Solomon Amarao, Chair

Po-Ning Chen, Vice Chair

Steven Lee, UCB

Brad Queen, UCI

Steve Margulis, UCLA

Valerie Leppert, UCM Alternate

Jason Duque, UCSB

John Tamkun, UCSC