



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting

October 16, 2025

Attendance: Bradley Queen, Chair (UCI); John Tamkun, Vice Chair (UCSC); Nasser Zakariya, UCB; Timothy Lewis, UCD; Kie Zuraw, UCLA; Aurora Pribram-Jones, UCM; Agnieszka Jaworska, UCR; Pedro Cabrales Arevalo, UCSD; Brian Dolan, UCSF; Rebeca Rios, UCSB; Eileen Zurbriggen, UCSC; Maya Botros, Undergraduate Student Representative

I. Consent Calendar

- Approval of the Agenda
The agenda was approved as noticed.

II. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Council Chair

Susannah Scott, Academic Council Vice Chair

- The Academic Assembly met recently, off cycle in order to 1) meet a California Public Employee Relations Bureau (PERB) deadline to enact changes to Senate Regulation 750 removing Visiting Professors of Math and adding Math Fellows, which passed unanimously and 2) engage with President Milliken. Topics such as federal demands on UCLA and a proposed compact among universities in defense of academic freedom were discussed. The Academic Council recently issued a statement of “redlines” that must not be crossed. The Incident Report disclosures at UCB were presented as consistent with past practice. 3) The Assembly also heard from Chief Financial Office Brostrom, who reported that the state budget is looking better due to stock market increases. Next steps for the final year of the budget compact with the state are under consideration as several items were deferred. The state has proposed establishment of a foundation to address research funding shortfalls. Revisions to the tuition stability plan will be presented to the Regents in November.
- The Senate is involved in two joint task forces this fall. 1) The University Committee on Adaptations to Disruptions (UCAD) has issued an interim report addressing four categories of change the University must consider in light of the changing federal landscape. A joint task force will add senior leaders to the

faculty roster and be known as UCAD+. Chair Palazoglu, Provost Newman, and UCI EVCP Stern are the steering committee. 2) Vice Chair Scott is co-chair of the Performance of Undergraduate Degree Programs (PUDP) Task Force with Vice Provost Varsanyi from Faculty Affairs and Academic Programs (FAAP). PUDP is the successor to the instructional modalities task force that recently ended its work. The type of programs to be developed and the rate at which to do so, as well as success metrics, will all be discussed. Members noted that the external pressure on the Senate and other academics to develop more online courses and programs is of growing concern. Improved relationships with those providing the pressure could be a partial solution.

- New guidelines for APM 015 and 016 are out for systemwide review. The Academic Assembly is expected to discuss the review feedback ahead of the January Regents meeting. The University Committee on Privilege and Tenure (UCPT) also has a workgroup reviewing in detail the proposals, and the University Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction (UCRJ) is considering conforming amendments that would be needed elsewhere in Senate regulations, etc. The University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) is looking closely at the expressive activities presented in Appendix B.
- The Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) is identifying its priorities for the year. The California Community Colleges, in accordance with AB 1111, are developing Common Course Numbering to facilitate transfer articulation. The California State University system and the UC are reviewing the templates developed by CCC.

Members asked if strike preparedness documents would be prepared and circulated, but no decisions have been made. Contingency planning is in progress, though. Each campus should have a shareable plan in the books.

III. Welcome, Introductions, and Chair's Announcements

Bradley Queen, UCOPE Chair

- UCOPE Priorities for 2025-26
 - 1) The UCOPE bylaw must be revised to remove reference to the no-longer-used Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE) and introduce language reflective of today's environment.
 - 2) UCOPE has two subcommittees, the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Coordinating Council (ECC) and the English for Multi-lingual Students Advisory Group (EMS AG). UCOPE should review the charges of each and the impact of ELWR placement practices on time to degree and through an equity lens.
 - 3) The College Board has re-normed its scoring practices for AP exams, and the impact to ELWR satisfaction should be monitored. The University Committee on Education Policy (UCEP) and the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) are also both monitoring impacts of the scoring change.
 - 4) Transfer preparation and articulation issues as mentioned above will also be on UCOPE's agenda this year.

- Systemwide Review Items
Analyst Feer noted that there are several systemwide review items, but none falls within the UCOPE bailiwick. Interested faculty may opine through their divisions, should they choose to do so, and many of the topics do have broad faculty implications.
- Spring Meeting Planning
 - The committee elected to meet in person for their April meeting.

IV. UCOPE Business

- Bylaw Revisions
The committee reviewed the bylaw in granular detail, examining ex officio representatives, potential impacts to non-resident students, the degree of consistency desired across the campuses, and the scope of placement courses over which UCOPE should practice oversight.
 - Removal of language referring to AWPE was approved, and a revised draft will be considered at the next UCOPE meeting.
- Senate Regulation 761 Revisions
SR 761 governs ELWR administration, and dated language is being replaced with terminology consistent with current practices.
 - UCOPE will communicate to the Academic Council these changes for systemwide review.
- Math and STEM Placement Practices
Campus efforts vary widely and the scalability of current efforts is unclear. Student engagement in math preparation still requires improvement. Assessing current efforts has been challenging in the past, so convening experts may be necessary. Even though there is no math analogue, a subcommittee similar to ECC composed of subject-matter experts might be considered.
Members asked if any campus had a math program similar to Writing I and II course sequences. Some campuses use diagnostic placement tests, and teaching is conducted through tutoring centers or similar bodies.
- Subcommittee Activities
The ECC is only in its second year, but it has already generated overviews of ELWR practices at each campus. On a three-year rotating basis, three campuses will provide a more comprehensive report. Clarification of ELWR fee usage at each campus is one goal for upcoming reports. A minimal central fee for systemwide data collection was suggested.
 - UCOPE will write to the Academic Council, asking them to share out information about ECC's charge and campus obligations to provide requested information to them for analysis.

The EMS AG has years of history, but its reporting duties need clarification. Other external changes may require further revision of its charge, such as using English for Academic Programs in lieu of English Language Learners. Upcoming changes to

TOEFL and Duo Lingos will require expert review, as well. Another charge revision to consider is whether this group might have a dual reporting line to UCEP.

- Use of AP Test Scores for ELWR Satisfaction

BOARS has taken point with the College Board's use of the Evidence-Based Scoring System (EBSS) for AP exams, and they are questioning the statistical methodology and its differential impact by test. Nine subjects with historically low pass rates saw dramatically increased pass rates under the new system. UC may want to raise its pass rate from 3 to 4 for certain subjects, but impacts to time to degree and various course delivery options must be considered. The systemwide office of Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP) already has a data request from BOARS regarding student outcomes, but the campuses hold the best data.

V. New Business and Further Discussion

None.

Adjournment 2:25 pm

Attest: Bradley Queen, UCOPE Chair

Minutes Prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Policy Analyst