

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC SENATE  
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET (UCPB)**

**Minutes of Meeting  
June 7, 2024**

Present: Don Senear (Chair), Tim Groeling (Vice Chair), Amani Nuru-Jeter (Berkeley), Robert Brosnan (Davis), Geroes Van Den Abbeele (Irvine), Michael Emmerich (Los Angeles), Kara McCloskey (Merced), Juliann Emmons Allison (Riverside), Terry Gaasterland (San Diego), France Winddance Twine (Santa Barbara), Raphael Kudela (Santa Cruz), Cain Diaz (Interim Associate Vice President and Director, Operating Budget), Seija Virtanen (Associate Director, State Budget Relations), Glenda Humiston (Vice President, Agriculture and Natural Resources), Stefani Leto (Analyst).

**I. Consent Calendar**

**Action:** UCPB approved both items

**II. Chair's Announcements**

Chair Senear provided committee members with an overview of the plan for the meeting and results from the most recent Council meeting.

He noted the organization and funding structure of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR). UC acts as a pass-through funding agency for ANR. A previous Senate task force on ANR reported to UCPB but was disbanded and its responsibility handed to UCORP, but UCPB still maintains an interest in the workings of ANR and the budget impacts of its funding and faculty appointments.

Council updates:

- The Provost announced a reorganization of Academic Personnel and Programs (APP), into two units. The Vice Provost will lead an academic program focused unit. The labor/human relations side will now be under the Deputy Provost for APP, reporting directly to the Provost. In addition, VP Haynes announced his retirement.
- UCEP has developed and posted a statement outlining what UC quality entails. It may be used in future work on teaching modality.
- Council asked experts for additional information on issues pertaining to Area H.
- Council approved the review of the Humanities Research Institute and recommended that it continue but needs a permanent director. Concerns about the HRI raising enough money to obtain matching funds continue.
- The Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) survey of health care providers released the results of the first post-pandemic survey conducted during 2023, with 2022 data. Various concerns were elevated by UC employees. Kaiser was the only UC health plan receiving positive responses, with ratings above the national average. Providers dropping Delta Dental due to low

reimbursements was noted. Health care premiums will likely increase again next year, and it is unclear whether the UC will supplement costs.

### **III. Discuss Report/Ideas for APC Work Group on the Future of Doctoral Programs Cost and Budget Subgroup**

The interim report by the task force was released to feedback that it did not go beyond previous attempts to examine doctoral studies at the University, specifically that it did not highlight housing issues as a catalyst for unrest. The task force is preparing a full report including topics that were not addressed in the interim version.

Robust discussion of the principle that the University will commit to five years of support for graduate students ensued.

- Whether being a teaching assistant serves as training or primarily financial support for graduate students.
- Members noted that there might be an ethical imperative to support graduate students given the cost of housing around UCs.
- Professional lecturers might provide better education for undergraduate students than less-trained teaching assistants. Teaching assistants do not teach classes, only discussion sections. Teaching fellows teach classes, so the quality issue may have less impact.
- Considerations need to be costs, quality of education, and graduate students gaining necessary experience.
- Concern that an argument that students will be full time workers and therefore do not earn a degree based on their academic work. There may need to be a requirement that students learn to teach but without compensation.
- Returning tuition or NRST might be a method to rebate costs. GSRs may no longer be a cost-effective way to conduct research. Campuses will have to kick funding in.
- A proposal to disallow paid research work from counting toward education has been floated.
- An option could be fellowship support, independent of employment status, with competition for paid GSRs separate from their research. Employment status would not be guaranteed as part of being a doctoral student, but fellowships would be.

### **IV. Self-Supporting Degree Program Proposal Review**

#### **1. UC Irvine Master of Education Sciences Learning Analytics**

UCPB heard a review of this proposed program, which applies data science to the field of education through a five-quarter, part time, fully-online Master's degree in learning analytics. The program anticipates positive revenue beginning in year two and fully realizing projected revenue by year three; this revenue will be used to support doctoral education through recruitment of underrepresented students interested in learning analytics. Fields of employment would be in curricular design, schools of education, education units of private industry, and for non-profits focused on education.

Courses would be taught on load by current ladder-rank faculty. The committee raised concern that development of high-quality online courses requires much faculty effort. Should the proposed program use senate faculty teaching on load on buyout, if Unit 18 lecturers are used as replacements, this may reduce contact between undergraduate students and ladder-rank faculty.

Employment prospects for graduates seem promising. In addition, some currently employed potential students might obtain employer financing for the degree. The program plans to provide 50 percent scholarships to students with financial need, up to ten students per cohort at program maturity. Most students will be U.S. students, though the percentage of California residents was not indicated.

The program is in the middle of the range of tuition for degrees of this kind. However, an analysis showing differences in salary potential with this degree versus bachelor's degrees was not provided. The committee expressed concern about student debt load for recent graduates especially.

The program promoters note that it would be a partnership with the Society for Learning Analytics Research (SoLAR), who will serve on the board and provide feedback. This relationship should be investigated as part of the third year review. The third year review also presents an opportunity for focused evaluation of the efficacy and value of a fully online, asynchronous degree program.

**Action:** UCPB approves of the program and will ask CCGA to address some of their concerns.

## **V. Budget Consultation with UCOP**

Cain Diaz, Interim Associate Vice President and Director, Budget Analysis and Planning, and Seija Virtanen, Associate Director, State Budget Relations, provided an overview of the current state budget.

The legislature voted on a budget in the budget committee, as a counter to the governor's proposed budget. The legislators' provides the UC with the 5 percent base funding increase provided by the multi-year funding compact between UC and the governor, \$31.30M for NRST buyout, and cuts base budget by \$125M, for a net of \$134M in new money, versus the governor's \$125M cut. Their budget would use more reserve funds than the governor's would. They want to claim funding of the compact but they do not have the full \$258.82158M. The legislative budget proposal is likely to have various iterations but must be passed by June 15. Negotiations between the legislature and the governor are ongoing. The proposed legislature's budget would make changes to the Gann limit and how reserves are used. The amount of money put towards health care changes will determine what the UC gets of the 5 percent.

Between Jan-April the state saw a revenue decrease of approximately \$7B and the governor planned a 7.9 percent cut across the board to state agencies. The CSU and UCs were not cut, but cuts are in the 25-26 budget for both. If revenues increase, the cuts would be unwound first for CSU and UC, however that seems unlikely. There were many programmatic cuts in the governor's budget. It kept funding frozen that had been frozen in the early action budget. The governor plans to unfreeze those lines in July 2024 and then add a 10 percent compact refund in 2025-26. The legislature returned funding to K-12 which destabilized the planned budget.

Unfunded enrollment targets remain problematic as the final budget, which would indicate whether funding promised for enrollment increases will be received, will not be available until January. The UC noted that enrollment targets only work if the state provides funding, as enrollment decisions must be made before the final budget is adopted. UC budget planning has talked about two different plans, depending on state revenue. The budget office has modeled various scenarios and shared them with campuses. Enrollment planning will be done in an absence of hard information. Campuses under the nonresident student cap may be incentivized to admit up to the cap level. There is a disparity between the cost to nonresident students admitted to the UC versus our main comparator public universities. The committee noted that whether the UC wants to copy the University of Michigan in this aspect is a separate conversation. True-ups for doctoral funding will not be done until budget numbers from the state are finalized.

Medical residency funding was supposed to receive \$75M from the Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax; the governor's proposal removes this; the legislature's returns it but beginning in 2026 rather than 2024. Both the Governor's May Revision and the Legislative Budget reduce the University's State General Fund "true-up" of \$13.5 million to the Proposition 56 tobacco tax that would have provided a total of \$40 million to the University. The \$26.5 million in Proposition 56 tobacco tax remains for medical residency positions. There will therefore be a reduction in medical residency funding.

## **VI. Senate Leadership Consultation**

Steven Cheung, Vice Chair, Academic Council, noted that if the state honored the third year of the compact, it would have been the longest a compact between the UC and the state had lasted.

Regents' Meeting at Merced:

- Agreement was reached - Janet Reilly will be the next Chair and Maria Anguiano the Vice Chair. The subcommittees' chairs are not named yet.
- Website policy mirrors Academic Council recommendation. Instead of "recommend," it says "should." Discretionary statements cannot be on Academic Unit's landing pages, but links to them can be on landing pages.
- At the meeting, they celebrated UC Merced's Medical Education Building. Funding for a Merced Medical Center has not been identified.
- The investment portfolio has done well which has lessened some of the pressure on the operations. Lifting payout from the endowments from 4.5 to 5 percent of profit. Funding of UCRP within five years is possibly presumed to be not as necessary so pressure for increased staff contribution dropped a bit. If investment returns continue to perform well, the pressure What happened to the ½% employer contribution plus STIP borrowing – if it keeps going well, then pressure for borrowing from STIP to fund operations will lessen.

Council meeting: Area H was discussed, and one of the goals is alignment with the state requirement; an overlay, not additive. Discussions of equity between in and out of state students, as well as burdening under resourced schools and over reliance on admissions by

exception. So far, there has been no intersegmental consultation. Jim moved to bring content experts in articulation and ethnic studies. Should Council take a vote, it goes to Assembly. It will go onto September or later.

The special committee ASCOTI has delivered transfer pathways for seven STEM majors. In the future, these will likely become Associates Degrees for Transfer. The committee continues to meet and will address CAL-GETC in the fall. The UC maintains that distinct pathways which prepare transfer students for individual majors are most appropriate as a lack of major preparation would extend time to degree for transfers. The committee will continue to address substantial matters in the fall.

A rolling strike by graduate students has now moved to six campuses. The UAW is alleging unfair labor practices based on arrests at protests. Both parties are filing unfair labor practices. This will be an ongoing court battle.

In response to cybersecurity plans from the President, UCACC raised concerns. Faculty are worried about privacy, special needs of research computing, and 100 percent compliance requirements. UCSF had the same security issues, and they used targeted approaches.

The committee asked Vice Chair Cheung if a proposed meeting with COO Nava and CFO Brostrom had taken place. meet with Rachael. While the proposal has not met much resistance, leadership has not yet met with the COO.

## **VII. Campus and Committee Reports**

Committee members shared experiences about strike issues on their campuses.

## **VIII. Consultation with Agriculture and Natural Resources**

Glenda Humiston, VP, Agriculture and Natural Resources, met with UCPB and gave an overview of the history and functioning of ANR. The University of California is a Land Grant University, created by the Morril Act in 1862. Unlike other states, that designation applies to all ten UC campuses. Then in 1887, the Hatch Act created Agricultural Experiment Stations, which are still federally funded in part. Now, five UC campuses, Berkeley, Davis, Merced, Riverside, and Santa Cruz are AES campuses. Later, in 1914, the Smith-Lever Act created the Cooperative Extension and 4-H youth programs. Later acts added forestry funding (1962, MacIntire-Stennis Act). So ANR has a range of research interests, from basic scientific discovery to applied research, with research policy and practice and practical application of that research as well.

ANR has shifted to impact reporting over the past four years, so that outcomes from the research undertaken are part of the reporting, rather than traditional academic publications alone. Specialists are dual-appointment faculty on campuses whose research is jointly funded by ANR and the campus. Cooperative extension agents are academics required to have a robust research program, but they do not teach. Community educators are the traditional model of cooperative extension agents. They extend the research coming from campuses into the community, but do not perform research.

ANR's capital needs include about 13,000 acres of study land, but also facilities with large, deferred maintenance needs. Some recent one-time funds from the state were used to

address the dire needs. UC ANR is collaborating with other land grant universities nationally, supported by UC Federal Government Relations, to advocate for the inclusion of maintenance funds for Land Grant Universities in the Farm Bill. In addition, ANR has increased solicitation of funds from private donors. Funding sources are capacity funds from the Federal government, of \$20.8M. Competitive grants are primarily from the USDA but increasingly from diverse sources like the Department of Energy and Department of Commerce. Counties provide funding for county offices, equipment, and some staff. There are some endowment funds, and state funds that provide for salaries, benefits, and support of county and campus-based advisors. For the last two years, administrative overhead has been below 10 percent of the budget, often less.

Renewed focus on academic impact has been helped by additional state funding, allowing for rehiring previously reduced academic personnel. This has allowed the expansion of specialists to more UC campuses. Hiring additional specialists and advisors allows ANR to focus on strategic interests: water, urban work, small farm sustainability, fire, nutrition information, human/wildlife interactions, new crops and varieties, healthy forests, climate and agriculture, technology, 4H youth, and transdisciplinary work among them. When funding for academic hiring is available, ANR puts out a position call and asks for competitive applications, which are evaluated by a team comprised of the ANR program council, Associate Deans from AES campuses, and outside experts. They determine which proposed research areas are highest priority and those receive ANR funding. For lower-priority options, co-funding for an at least five-year position can often be found. Many of the perennially co-funded positions began as time-limited ones. If a position ends, funding returns to a central ANR pool, providing agility in hiring depending on research areas. Campuses sign MOUs to work with these funded positions.

- Discussion questions included whether ANR advocated with the state for one-time capital funding. VP Humiston clarified that advocating for federal funds was a key response for ANR, as well as coordinating with State Governmental Relations at OP. ANR's reach to all counties makes them an ideal advocate for the UC with all legislators, while campuses may be restricted in their geographical reach. The shift to impact reporting helps ANR make the case not only for its own budget needs, but that of the UC.
- A question about commercialization and patenting for ANR's work revealed that many of ANR patents are for plant varieties. An emerging issue is that increasingly some commodity organizations are beginning to request a stake in the patent revenue resulting from their funding. UC's patent offices are not well-designed to meet this kind of approach. ANR is working with UC Research and Innovation to use the new IP management system in ways that align better with ANR's practices. Public-private research has a bright future for ANR.
- In addition, ANR is working to diversify funding streams for greater financial health. ANR is in discussions with UC Investments about creating financing for researchers as well as growing funds held.

Meeting adjourned at 4:14pm  
Minutes prepared by Stefani Leto, Analyst  
Attest: Donald Senear, UCPB Chair

