

**Undergraduate Council** (UGC)

**Meeting Minutes  
Friday, October 8, 2021  
1:45pm-3:00pm**

**I. Consultation with Dean Dumont and Dr. Hurd – 1:45pm - 2:20pm****A. Progress in medical education**

Dean Dumont and Dr. Hurd gave a PowerPoint presentation on the progress in medical education at UC Merced. The main topics of their presentation are noted below:

1. The development of the SJV Prime + Program relates to a long-standing interest in building medical education and serving the community in the Central Valley.
2. The program has been funded by the state legislature, with a \$15 million annual allotment.
3. There are three campuses – UC Merced, UCSF Fresno, and UCSF Main Campus.
4. Development of a program charter and a series of workstreams including Outreach, Admissions, F1 foundations, F2 foundations, Undergraduate Education, etc.
5. The goal of the Outreach Workstream is to reach out to high school students and guidance counselors in the area to tell people about the program.
6. Implementation of the Outreach is on hold until January 2022 after Senate feedback is provided.
7. The goal of the Admissions Workstream is to identify an admissions process that would admit individuals into an 8-year track (BA degree and MD degree).
8. There is a lot of collaboration involved between the three campuses to determine the requirements for admission – applications, interviews, holistic reviews, milestones, etc.
9. The goal of the Baccalaureate Workstream is to enhance and customize the undergraduate experience at UC Merced in order to make students successful in medical school.
10. Currently identifying majors in which students can take the courses that are required for UCSF and their major in a timely manner.
11. The goal of the Foundations 1 Workstream is to adapt the UCSF F1 Bridges curriculum for delivery at UC Merced with a focus on rural and population health, including local challenges, while ensuring LCME equivalency/standards.

A member asked whether this plan contemplates a physical campus for students in the program, i.e. an actual medical facility. Dean Dumont noted that it would exist on UC Merced campus. There would not be an additional facility or hospital, etc.

Another member inquired about how the program intends to keep its graduates in the Central Valley, and what kind of financial aid can be promised to low-income students when they come into the program (particularly if they can expect to get financial support for the med school portion of the program). Dean Dumont explained that current research shows that where people complete their residency is indicative of where they will decide to practice medicine, so they would like to recruit individuals from the Central Valley into the Program. Dean Dumont also confirmed that there will be substantial financial aid for students, which will result in minimal debt.

Another question was raised whether it is expected that students will enter UC Merced with the intention to join this program, or if students can choose to enter this program after a year or so of joining UC Merced. Dean Dumont clarified that the BS to MD degree program is for students entering as freshmen; however, anyone who is a student at UC Merced can apply to the program at the end of their undergraduate education.

## II. **Chair's Report – Holley Moyes – 2:20pm – 2:30pm**

### A. October 4 UCEP Meeting

Chair Moyes shared the following updates from the October 4 UCEP meeting:

- UCEP members voted to approve the pre-proposal for a new College of Computing Data Science and Society at UC Berkeley.
- Academic Council Chair, Robert Horwitz, and Vice Chair, Susan Cochran reported that the Regents are aware of the importance of graduate programs and increasing the number of graduate students. They also discussed the importance of the CalFresh program because many students are housing and food insecure.
- The Committee on Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Equity (UCAADE) reported that the number of African American and Native American students that graduated from high school and entered college was much lower than other groups. There is also a graduation gap between underrepresented minorities and their white and Asian counterparts. Furthermore, many African American students feel unwelcome on campuses, and there is a lower success satisfaction level among women faculty.
- The Academic and Student Affairs Committee reported that the Assist website will be reconfigured. The committee also approved the UC Santa Cruz long-range development plan, and an initial plan for UC Berkeley's effort to build student housing on the park site. There is a 125-bed facility to house the homeless and they have completed inventory of the buildings for safety of seismic activity. They found that there are 500 buildings that need work, which will cost about \$20 billion to fix, and only 10% of that money has been allocated so far.
- Campuses with a high percentage of non-resident students will be obliged to cut 18% of their budget. The legislature has agreed to backfill the money but that commitment will apply year a year. The legislature also stopped paying for new

students, which has affected the higher rate of student-faculty ratio. Studies show that 40% of students claim they do not know their Professor well enough to ask for a letter of recommendation and this is considered part of the student-faculty ratio.

B. September 30 Divisional Council Meeting

Chair Moyes shared the following updates from the September 30 DivCo meeting:

- Vice Chancellor/Chief Diversity Officer, Cecil Howard, reported that several initiatives are progressing such as the Chancellor’s Inclusive Excellence Institute which stalled last year. He also noted that the Schools are considering hiring Associate Deans for diversity.
- There are plans for a committee for the principles on online undergraduate degree programs. Discussions will be held regarding what is important for undergraduate degree programs. Chair Moyes volunteered to serve on this committee.
- The Committee on Research drafted a memo on research obstacles, more specifically, in regard to purchasing, contracts, and the implementation of Oracle.
- There are proposals for three endowed chairs, and Divisional Council members suggested changing the wording from “studies” to “engagement” to indicate that these Presidential Chairs are open to faculty from all three Schools.

C. October 7 Meeting with SoE Department Chairs

A meeting took place on October 7 with SoE Dean Matsumoto, SoE Department Chairs, VPDUE Frey, VPDGE Kello, ALO Martin, and GC/UGC leads to discuss the tracking of online courses and curriculum mapping. There are concerns with receiving too many requests for online modalities, which could lead to students inadvertently achieving an online degree. Department Chairs have been asked to provide curriculum mapping to show which courses will be delivered online and how students can progress through their program without achieving an online degree. Many SoE Department Chairs had concerns with providing curriculum mapping and felt that UGC does not want to approve any online modalities. It was made clear to them that UGC is not against approving online modalities, they would just like to see a plan for when online courses are offered.

**III. Consent Calendar – 2:30pm – 2:35pm**

- A. The Agenda
- B. [September 24 Meeting Minutes](#)
- C. SoE Petitions for Graduate Students to Teach Upper Division Courses<sup>1</sup>
  1. [Mishra, Anupam\\_ENGR 151\\_202210](#)
  2. [Serajian, Reza\\_ME 120\\_202210](#)

**Action:**

- The agenda and September 24 meeting minutes were approved as presented.
- UGC Analyst will invite voting members to review and approve the two SoE petitions via email.

**IV. VPDUE Frey's Report – 2:35pm – 2:45pm****A. Inter-departmental Consultations for UGC Course and Degree Requirements:**

- Discussion about potentially creating a formal UGC consultation process for modifications to degree requirements or new course proposals that impact other departments. Many universities require new course proposals to include a list of overlap with existing courses. If there is substantial overlap with a course from another department, then there is a formal opportunity for the other department to submit a statement.

VPDUE Frey held a discussion with UGC members regarding a policy that would implement a formal consultation process when proposing a new course or modifying an existing course. This policy would allow the administration to distinguish which courses have substantial overlap with existing courses. It is currently the responsibility of the School Curriculum Committee to review course content, programmatic contribution, overlap with other courses, and resource implications within the context of the specific program in the School.

VPDU Frey shared an example, in which the School of Engineering submitted a proposal for a new course, ENGR 32. This course had substantial overlap with an existing course, MATH 32; however, the Applied Mathematics Department was never notified. VPDUE Frey proposed a policy for a formal consultation process with the Department Chair of another department if there is substantial overlap with an existing course within their department. The Department Chair may choose to respond, and if so, they may include documentation when the proposal is transmitted to UGC for consideration. UGC members agreed that a policy should be established.

**Action:**

- UGC Analyst will inquire about next steps and follow up with members via email.

**V. Consultation with GE Executive Committee Chair Valerie Leppert – 2:45pm – 2:55pm**

The General Education Executive Committee (GEEC) continues to work towards streamlining the General Education (GE) Program. GEEC Chair Leppert shared a document that compares the original program requirements with the streamlined program requirements. There were originally 26 requirements. After last year's reduction, UC Merced now has 23 requirements. GEEC Chair Leppert explained that there are six requirements that are school-discipline-specific. Students are required to take three classes in SSHA and three classes in SNS or SoE. Within each of these schools, there are another set of requirements that are field specific.

GEEC Chair Leppert explained how students can take the Approaches to Knowledge (AtK) courses and badges to satisfy their requirements. Additionally, the GEEC proposes to remove the Quantitative and Numerical Analysis badge due to an existing quantitative reasoning requirement. These two requirements are completely redundant, as every class that satisfies the Lower Division Quantitative Reasoning requirement also satisfies the

Quantitative and Numerical Analysis IE badge.

GEEC Chair Leppert stated that the GEEC would like to survey the faculty regarding the proposed changes to the GE program, but before doing so, they would like to consult with UGC for their feedback. GEEC Chair Leppert will be invited to the October 22 UGC meeting to provide further details and an additional update on GE business.

**Action:**

- GEEC Chair Leppert will provide additional information to UGC members via email in a couple weeks, and UGC members are to respond with any comments/feedback to Chair Leppert.

**VI. Any Other Business – 2:55pm – 3:00pm**

A request from SoE Dean Matsumoto and SoE Executive Committee Chair Keske, regarding the emergency approval for Unit 18 Lecturers to deliver their courses remotely in Spring 2022 and Summer 2022, was circulated to UGC members for review and approval. There has been issues with hiring faculty in Computer Science (CSE) and Mechanical Engineering (ME). SoE has faculty lines to hire instructors; however, they are unable to find individuals willing to teach courses in person. Chair Moyes noted that neither the memo from EC Chair Keske nor the memo from Dean Matsumoto mentioned the courses or the semester in which they will be taught. Chair Keske recently provided UGC with a list of courses that they are seeking approval for remote instruction. The list consisted of 14 courses, and Chair Moyes felt that this was a lot of courses to approve for remote instruction. The SoE instructional staff clarified that SoE is not asking for all the courses on the list to be approved, and that Dean Matsumoto is seeking permission to assign an instructor to teach the course if they can only teach remotely. All the courses on the list are planned to be offered in Spring 2022, except for ENGR 155, which will only be offered remotely if the request is approved.

Chair Moyes reiterated that UGC will not allow a blanket approval for online courses. UGC needs to know the specific courses that will be offered online in the Spring semester. A member also noted if a new a policy is developed regarding UGC's approval for remote instruction, it is important to include specific language on what is exactly approved, so that it is not misinterpreted by others. Chair Moyes will request further clarification from EC Chair Keske regarding SoE's emergency request.

**Action:**

- Chair Moyes will contact SoE EC Chair Keske asking for further clarification on which courses are guaranteed to be taught online in Spring and Summer 2022 and to clarify the process for UGC's approval of temporary online modalities.

**VII. Informational Items**

- A. [Smarter Balanced Study Group Report and Recommendations](#)