

Undergraduate Council (UGC)**Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 5, 2021
1:30-3:00pm**

Pursuant to the call, the Undergraduate Council met at 1:30pm on November 5 via Zoom, Chair Holley Moyes presiding.

I. Consultation with Professor Karl Ryavec – 1:30pm – 1:45pm

Professor Ryavec proposed a credit based Geographic Information Systems (GIS) certificate to the Geospatial Technology minor. It has come to Professor Ryavec's attention that employers hold more value for GIS certificates than a minor. In order to help students who minor in this field, Professor Ryavec would like to implement a certificate in GIS at UC Merced.

UC Merced does not currently have a formal process for approving a certificate proposal. Further clarification would be required to proceed. The UGC policy subcommittee will work on a policy for UC Merced.

II. Update on Writing Placement - VPDUE Frey and Member Camfield– 1:45pm – 2:00pm**A. Writing Placement Pilot Report**

Member Camfield reported that the working group connected with four other campuses in the UC system that were already experimenting with the collaborative placement. The four campuses shared resources and instruments that guided the working group to form the foundation of the UC Merced survey tool. The survey tool focused on the kinds of work that students would be undertaking in WRI 001 and WRI 010. Based on the responses, students would select the writing course that they felt was the best fit for them. A test survey has been piloted to a small group of students, which allowed the working group to analyze data and trends. A member asked a question regarding the length of the survey time. Member Camfield explained that the survey is untimed and students would be able to take it at their own pace.

Member Camfield requested permission to deploy the next phase of the pilot and to submit a petition to the systemwide Committee on Preparatory Education.

- UGC members unanimously approved to grant permission to deploy the next phase of the pilot placement test.
- UGC members unanimously approved to grant permission to submit a petition to UCOPE
- UGC unanimously approved the proposal.

III. Chair's Report – Holley Moyes – 2:00pm – 2:15pm**A. November 1 UCEP Meeting**

Chair Moyes reported on items that were addressed by Academic Council Chair Horwitz. A working group has been formed to look at mitigating the impact of COVID on faculty careers. The working group is also addressing teaching and flexibility. Chair Moyes added

that Chair Horwitz addressed academic dishonesty becoming a larger problem. UC Online is considering an online degree completion program. Chair Moyes has become a part of the committee that oversees developing principles for the online degree program.

B. October 28 DivCo Meeting

The campus plans to distribute an executive summary of the set of transitional steps that the campus will take if there is another COVID-19 surge. There are plans to add 20,000 more students across the UC system by 2030. UC Merced's Health and Behavioral Sciences building will be funded by the state, which will allow the campus to have more classroom space. Chair Moyes mentioned that the Academic Council did not endorse the Smarter Balanced Test, which was a potential replacement for the SATs.

C. October 27 Meeting with SSHA Department Chairs

Chair Moyes emphasized that although UGC is currently not approving any online courses through Curriculog, emergency approvals are still being granted.

D. Honors Program Work Group

Chair Moyes reported that a working group has been formed to implement an honors program for UCM. UGC will expect to receive a charge from this working group.

IV. Consent Calendar – 2:15pm – 2:20pm

A. The Agenda

B. SSHA Petition for Graduate Students to Teach Upper Division Courses

The relevant policy is available [here](#).

1. [Dueñas Garcia, Manuel HS140/ANTH140_202210](#)

- The consent calendar was approved as presented.

V. Approval of Courses – Jason Lee, Ryan Baxter, Siddaiah Yarra – 2:20pm – 2:30pm

Courses are available at the links below.

Action:

- The following courses were approved by UGC and Curriculog will be updated accordingly (completed 11/5):

1. [BIOE - 128 - Biotechnology Laboratory](#)
2. [ENG - 131 - Form and Formality](#)
3. [ENG - 134 - Poetry and Justice](#)
4. [Crosslisted Proposal PH - 196 - Internships in the Community](#)
5. [PHIL - 128 - Human Rights](#)
6. [PSY - 196 - Internships in the Community](#)

- UGC members agreed to hold off on the approval of the following courses, as further clarification has been requested.

1. [ENG - 022 - Love and its Languages](#)
2. [ENG - 112 - South Asian Literature and Culture around the World](#)

VI. UCOPE Updates – Eileen Camfield - 2:30pm – 2:45pm

UCOPE discussed updates on the entry level writing requirement task force. The discussion included whether collaborative or directed self-placement counts as a program of study. Member Camfield mentioned that a vote may be held whether the Smarter Balanced Test might be a way to satisfy the entry level writing requirements. Member Camfield stated that the Smarter Balanced Test scores will not be used for determining admission into the UC. A subcommittee from UCOPE also discussed principles and values that guide how the task force will engage with questions about writing placement.

VII. VCSA Nies Report – 2:45-2:50pm

A. Alcohol and Other Drug Task Force

In order to continue to receive the Federal Title IV funding for both students and faculty, the university will need to perform outreach and awareness around alcohol and other drug related abuse. Currently there are no coordinated outreach and awareness efforts and focus on this topic. VCSA Nies reported that a work group is being formed for both undergraduate and graduate student outreach efforts.

B. Campus Safety Guideline Implementation

A working group is being formed around campus safety. There was a recommendation from the Office of the President to all of the UC campuses to start implementing campus guidelines. The work group will focus on creating a tiered response to student intervention strategies, particularly around mental health related activities. There have been discussions on police engagement and the kinds of conversations that will be held between officers and students. VCSA Nies mentioned that the working group will involve faculty efforts. A plan of recommendations is due at the end of March 2022.

C. Admissions/Recruitment Update

The campus enrollment and strategy group looked at recruitment strategies to bring in new first year and transfer students. The group also looked at retention efforts and initiatives, specifically methods for retaining and graduating the undergraduate students at a higher rate. VCSA Nies stated that a goal has been set to reach 15,000 student enrollments by 2030. VCSA Nies emphasized that faculty play an essential role in keeping students connected and engaged with the university.

VIII. Executive Session – Voting Members Only – 2:50pm – 3:00pm

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm
Attest: Holley Moyes, UGC Chair