

**Undergraduate Council (UGC)****Meeting Minutes  
Friday, November 19, 2021  
1:30-3:00pm**

Pursuant to the call, the Undergraduate Council met at 1:30pm on November 19 via Zoom, Chair Holley Moyes presiding.

**I. Chair's Report – Holley Moyes – 1:30pm – 1:40pm****A. DivCo (November 18)**

Chair Moyes reported that there are Senate teams that are being set up to discuss how to implement the campus strategic plan, and asked for someone from UGC to sit on the committee. There was also a discussion around how the Senate would use the McKenzie Scott funds allocated by the Chancellor.

**B. SNS Department Chairs meeting (November 10)**

The working group on online education met with SNS faculty on November 10, 2021. Chair Moyes explained the issue behind approving multiple online courses to the SNS faculty. Chair Moyes mentioned that UGC has been temporarily approving courses for the spring and summer. The SNS faculty were supportive of UGC's decision.

**II. Consent Calendar – All – 1:40pm – 1:45pm**

- A. The Agenda
- B. [October 22 Meeting Minutes](#)
- C. [November 5 Meeting Minutes](#)

➤ The consent calendar was approved as presented.

**III. Consultation with Director of Division of Management and Information, Paul Maglio, and the Gallo School Planning Team – 1:45pm – 2:05pm**

The Gallo School Planning Team reported that there are several changes to the proposal, such as the addition of the Political Science department. The Gallo School Planning Team and UGC discussed what the Team could do to strengthen the next round of the preproposal. Chair Moyes asked the Team about the ways Political Science would be pedagogically incorporated. There was a discussion around how the Political Science department had a vision that was aligned to the Team's vision, and whether the Gallo school would be better off as a center instead of a school.

**IV. Approval of Courses – Jason Lee, Ryan Baxter, Siddaiah Yarra – 2:05pm – 2:10pm**  
Courses are available at the link below.

- The following courses were approved by UGC with the provision that they be updated to address the subcommittee's comments:
  1. [ENG - 112 - South Asian Literature and Culture around the World](#)
  2. [ENG - 022 - Love and its Languages](#)
- UGC analyst will work with SSHA Curriculum Manager to update the course proposals.

**V. [Proposed Charge for the Honors Program Working Group](#) 2:10pm – 2:20pm**

Chair Moyes provided UGC members with background regarding the Honors Program proposal and the 2015 Honors Task Force report. This proposed program was never implemented, but as the campus develops, Chair Moyes stated that an alternative proposal should be put forward that better reflects newer approaches to the Honors Program and is tailored to the campus community. The charge for the Honors Program Working Group was shared with UGC members prior to the committee meeting. Chair Moyes emphasized that the leadership component, as well as the research component, will be critical parts in the development of the Honors Program. The working group will determine how the educational component of the program will be delivered without the need to hire additional faculty. After an engaged discussion, UGC members unanimously approved the proposed charge for the Honors Program Working Group as presented.

**VI. Course Waitlist Framework – Registrar Webb – 2:20pm – 2:30pm**

A. Office of the Registrar [memo](#)

Registrar Webb introduced the proposal, specifically, the launch of a campus course waitlist system. Allowing students to sign up for a course waitlist allows for enrollment management and promotes fairness, equity and consistency across all majors. Registrar Webb requested UGC's feedback and suggestions.

A UGC member asked if there was a time limit for a student to enroll into a course once they have been notified about an opening. Registrar Webb clarified that the student would have 18 hours to enroll upon the email that they receive.

Another UGC member asked if there was a limit on how many courses a student can waitlist for. Registrar Webb stated that there will be no limit as long as the student meets the prerequisites. However, there are restrictions: e.g., students cannot waitlist in a different section of the same class.

UGC members discussed and supported the Course Waitlist Framework.

- Members discussed the proposal and had no objections.

## **VII. VPDUE Frey’s Report – 2:30pm – 2:40pm**

- A. Exploratory conversation about academic policy modifications to allow for first year student exploration and academic recovery

In light of the policy modifications due to COVID-19, VPDUE Frey suggested that there are opportunities to rethink some of the current academic policies to best support and meet the needs of our students. VPDUE Frey emphasized the importance of guiding first-year students towards a path of success.

As UC Merced does not have admissions requirements specific to certain majors, there is a chance that first-year students will enroll into a major that does not fit their interests. Most majors do not have a high school equivalence, and sometimes students will sign up for a course with no understanding on what that major may entail. Students will often fail the course, which will result in the drop of their GPA. VPDUE Frey stated that it will be difficult for students to make sufficient progress if they are no longer interested in the subject, as it will be a challenge to boost their grade high enough to help their GPA. VPDUE Frey suggested to reconsider the letter grade policy and to implement the “Pass” or “Fail” grading system when retaking a course. This will have less implications on the students’ GPA.

VPDUE Frey also suggested the idea of “parachute” classes. These courses will start five to six weeks into the semester. If a student is enrolled in a course that they are struggling in, they will be able to drop the course and move into the parachute class with no academic penalty. VPDUE Frey mentioned that students stay enrolled in courses that they know that they will fail. This can be due to various reasons; one being meeting unit requirements for financial aid. This will ultimately result in the drop of the students’ GPA and the difficult academic recovery that they will have to face. Discussion ensued on the details of the parachute classes. A UGC member mentioned that in order to help students succeed, it would be crucial for them to learn study skills and time management in these parachute classes. UGC members agreed that this idea can be beneficial to the campus as a whole.

- This will be discussed by the UGC policy subcommittee.

## **VIII. Executive Session –2:40pm – 3:00pm**

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