

Undergraduate Council (UGC)

Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 11, 2022
1:00-2:25pm

I. Chair's Report – Holley Moyes - 1:00pm – 1:10pm**A. March 10 Divisional Council Meeting**

Chair Moyes shared the following updates from the March 10 DivCo meeting:

- Chair Westerling stated that the future of the mask mandate is unclear. The mask mandate for inside the classroom may be lifted, and faculty cannot force their students to wear a mask in their classroom.
- In Fall 2021, the Senate approved the extension of the policy to allow remote instruction as a reasonable accommodation for instructors who are immuno-compromised or have an immuno-compromised individual in their household, but the extension is set to expire. Remote instruction is not a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). During the pandemic, however, the campus granted the accommodation requests. Senate Chair Westerling suggested GC Chair Hestir and UGC Chair Moyes draft a memo about accommodations for remote instruction.
- SNS Dean Dumont and Director of Medical Education Hurd provided an update on Medical Education. There were concerns regarding the review process because the proposal is for a new program; however, it is not being presented as a program. UGC Member, Michelle Leslie, has plans to collaborate with Dean Dumont and develop a review process.
- EVC/Provost Camfield announced that Assembly Member, Adam Gray, has co-authored Assembly Bill 2046 entitled “University of California: Inland Rising Fund” that proposes the allocation of about \$1.5 billion to be divided between UC Merced and UC Riverside for a variety of initiatives. These funds could be allocated to new buildings, hiring additional staff, etc.
- EVC/Provost Camfield expressed concern that last year's first-year students – this year's sophomores – are disconnected from the campus, having spent their entire freshmen year online. Faculty are concerned about student absenteeism from classes and from campus events. EVC/Provost Camfield is currently working with Student Affairs to create student events to encourage a sense of belonging, and he asked UGC to advise him on ways that faculty can help make students feel connected to the campus.

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B. March 8 CRE Meeting – UGC Chair consultation re: Honors Program Proposal

The Senate Regulations must be revised in order to develop a campus-wide Honors program. Chair Moyes met with members of the Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE) on March 8, 2022 to discuss the potential changes to Section 4 of the Senate Regulations – Honors. Chair Moyes will circulate a draft of the proposed revisions to the Senate Regulations to UGC voting members within the next couple of weeks.

C. March 7 UCEP Meeting

Chair Moyes shared the following updates from the March 7 UCEP meeting:

- UCLA students, specifically those with disabilities, have filed a petition for hybrid courses.
- There will be a 5% increase per year in UC Merced’s budget going forward.
- UC Berkeley will not be able to admit as many students this year as they have in the past. The projected enrollment was 3,400; however, approximately 2,300 students have been admitted. Those who do not get accepted into UC Berkeley going forward could end up matriculating to UC Merced.
- There is a proposal from UC Irvine for an online business degree, which is referred to as a “degree completion program”. This program would require the student to complete their GE in person, and then they would have the option to complete their last two years online.
- The compendium states that individual campuses can approve their own online programs. Chair Moyes believes that the administration and faculty at UC Merced prefer systemwide to have oversight on the approval of online programs. This will be further discussed later in today’s meeting.

II. Consent Calendar – 1:10pm – 1:15pm

A. The Agenda

B. [SNS Request – One-time Exception for Summer 2022 Online Modalities](#)

C. [SoE Request - Exception to the Deadline to Submit a Course Modification for Inclusion in the Fall 2022 Schedule](#)

Action:

- The agenda was approved as presented.
- UGC denied SNS’s request for Summer 2022 online modalities because Registration has already gone live for Summer 2022. UGC Analyst will notify the requestor.
- UGC approved SoE’s request for an exception to the deadline to submit a course modification for inclusion in the Fall 2022 schedule. UGC Analyst will notify the SoE Instructional Manager.

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III. Approval of Courses – Jason Lee, Ryan Baxter, Siddaiah Yarra – 1:15pm – 1:25pm

Courses are available at the links below.

- The following courses were approved by UGC and Curriculog will be updated accordingly:
 1. [ENG - 061 - Native American Memoir](#)
 2. [ENG - 187 - Shakespeare and Social Justice](#)
 3. [ME - 121 - Introduction to Manufacturing Processes](#)
 4. [POLI - 131 - Everyday Politics in Latin America](#)
- UGC Analyst will contact the School Instructional Managers to seek clarification on the following courses before UGC recommends approval:
 1. [BIO - 118 - Gene Editing Research Lab](#)
 2. [HS - 112 - GIS for World Economic History](#)
 3. [MIST - 011 - Climate Justice](#)
 4. [PH - 010 - Introduction to Biostatistics](#)
- UGC agreed to further discuss the following course at the April 8, 2022 UGC meeting:
 1. [GEOG - 112 - GIS for World Economic History](#)

IV. Non-Senate Faculty Representation on UGC – 1:25pm – 1:35pm

Requested Action: Members discuss how many non-Senate faculty members and from which Schools are to serve on UGC.

Members agreed that a member from the Merritt Writing Program (MWP) and a non-Senate faculty member who teaches MATH 005 should be invited to serve on UGC in AY 22-23.

Action:

- UGC Analyst will work with Chair Moyes and Senate Executive Director Paul on next steps.

V. UGC Awards Subcommittees– 1:35pm – 1:45pm

A. [Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for Non-Senate Faculty](#)

Selection Process: The Undergraduate Council (UGC) will form an ad-hoc committee from its membership to serve as the UGC Awards Committee with a minimum of three members.

Membership will include:

- At least one UGC Senate faculty who will also serve as Chair of the Awards Committee
- A UGC ex-officio member (VPDUE Frey or VCSA Nies)
- A Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning representative (UGC Analyst will contact a member of CETL)

Action:

- Member Arvind Gopinath volunteered to serve as the UGC Senate faculty member and Chair of the Awards subcommittee.
- VPDUE Frey volunteered to serve as the UGC ex-officio member.
- UGC Analyst will send the subcommittee information on next steps.

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B. [Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for Senate Faculty](#)

Selection Process: The Undergraduate Council (UGC) will form an ad-hoc committee from its membership to serve as the UGC Awards Committee with a minimum of three Senate faculty.

Membership will include:

- Three Senate faculty (one from each School)
- A UGC ex-officio member (VPDUE Frey or VCSA Nies)
- Unit 18 Lecturer (UGC Analyst will contact a Unit 18 Lecturer)

Action:

- Members Alejandro Gutierrez (SoE), Jason Lee (SSHA), and Michelle Leslie (SNS) volunteered to serve as the three Senate faculty (one member from each school).
- VPDUE Frey volunteered as the UGC ex-officio member.
- UGC Analyst will send the subcommittee information on next steps.

VI. **VPDUE Frey Report – 1:45pm – 2:00pm**

A. Academic policy modifications to allow for first-year student exploration and academic recovery. The proposal is available [here](#).

VPDUE Frey introduced this item at the January 14 UGC meeting. The Policy Subcommittee met on February 1, 2022 to further discuss the suggested policy modifications, and their recommendations are available [here](#). This item was further discussed at the March 4 UGC meeting, and members agreed to continue the discussion at today's meeting.

Requested Action: Members further discuss Policy Subcommittee's recommendations and determine next steps.

UGC members further discussed possible policy modifications for students struggling in their first year. Chair Moyes asked VPDUE Frey for clarification on parachute classes. VPDUE Frey explained that parachute classes are regular courses offered in a compressed timeframe approximately 5–6 weeks into the semester to first-year students who are struggling in a course they are currently enrolled in. The difference between a parachute course and any other partial-term course offering is the ability for students to add the course to their schedule after the regular add deadline and drop another course late without being penalized. The student would be allowed to drop their current course and still receive credit and advance toward their degree. They would also not have to continue through the remainder of the semester in a course they are not doing well in. The plan would be to offer a couple of parachute classes in the Fall, which would provide an idea for how many to offer in future terms.

A member inquired about the budget for parachute courses. VPDUE Frey clarified that parachute courses would be similar in every way to regularly scheduled courses and would be included in the normal instructional budget.

Another member noted that offering parachute courses in a compressed timeframe is not ideal. VPDUE Frey stated that Summer Session courses are currently offered in 6-8 week-long sessions, and parachute courses would be offered in 10-week long sessions. Therefore, offering parachute courses in a compressed timeframe would not differ from what is already

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offered on campus.

VCSA Nies also noted that offering parachute courses would benefit students in terms of their financial aid because students would not fall under full-time status when dropping a course. Students would still receive credit from the parachute class that they transfer into. VPDUE Frey further explained that parachute courses would be offered by departments but would be hidden from the schedule and become available for registration later in the semester. She also explained that the 16-week semester could be split into two 8-week sessions; however, the purpose of parachute classes would be to offer students the option to drop a course without being penalized. The student would not withdraw from a course, they would transfer into a parachute course and the course they transfer out of would completely drop off their record.

Action:

- The Policy Subcommittee will meet to further discuss the proposal.
- Further discussion will take place at a future UGC meeting.

VII. Update on Principles for University of California Online Degree Programs – Chair Moyes - 2:00pm – 2:20pm

This item was discussed during the January 14 UGC meeting. A [memo](#) was drafted on behalf of UGC and transmitted to the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) on February 4, 2022. Vice Chair Baxter provided an update from the February 7 UCEP meeting at the February 18 UGC meeting. UGC was invited on February 22 to provide comments on a series of questions regarding online undergraduate degree programs. The Google Doc with members' comments can be found [here](#).

Requested Action: Members to engage in further discussion.

Chair Moyes would like to form a Working Group to discuss university online degree programs. A Working Group would include members outside of UGC who could contribute their ideas and opinions. Chair Moyes clarified that there has not been a formal proclamation that online degree programs will be offered at universities; however, she feels strongly that it is forthcoming. The Working Group should focus on the structure of these programs. VPDUE Frey recommended that Chair Moyes contact the UC Online Advisory Board and the Academic and Emerging Technologies (AET) team for additional information.

There are many concerns with the approval of online programs at the campus level because there would be no oversight; there would be no rules regarding how large the program could be or how many students the program could be offered to, etc. Chair Moyes explained that if UC Berkeley were to offer an online Anthropology program, it could be detrimental to UC Merced's enrollment in Anthropology. Chair Moyes strongly advocates for systemwide oversight of online degree programs. If individual campuses approve their own online programs, it would create competition between institutions and could potentially harm UC Merced's business.

Action:

- A Working Group will be formed to further discuss Principles for University of California Online Degree Programs.

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- Members Ryan Baxter, Carolyn Jennings, and VPDUE Frey volunteered to serve on the Working Group with Chair Moyes.
- Chair Moyes will draft a charge and send it to UGC Analyst.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:34pm.