

Undergraduate Council (UGC)

Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 8, 2022
1:00-2:25pm

I. Chair's Report – Holley Moyes - 1:00pm – 1:10pm**A. March 31 and April 7 Divisional Council Meetings**

Chair Moyes noted that the March 31 DivCo meeting focused on the review of the Gallo School of Management Pre-proposal which will be discussed during today's executive session.

Chair Moyes shared the following updates from the April 7 DivCo meeting:

- The Chancellor plans to create an opportunity hire for a senior faculty member with a background in education who will be tasked with spearheading a certificate program or graduate program in education at UC Merced. The Chancellor believes that the pandemic has affected incoming candidates, and he discussed best practices for evaluating them.
- Members reviewed the Proposed Presidential Policy on University of California Research Data. One member was concerned with the revised policy investing a lot of authority in campus Vice Chancellors for Research (VCRs) and suggested more faculty oversight.
- LASC Chair DePrano joined the meeting to further discuss the Library's budget. Approximately one third of UC Merced's journals and e-books have not been funded. This is because the Library was receiving one-time funding but it is not in the system's budget to continue providing these funds. This is problematic for faculty who conduct Library research. The Library is still not open on Saturdays because there isn't enough funding to hire staff to work on the weekends. Chair Moyes agreed to meet with Chair DePrano to draft a memo advocating for additional funding. Chair Moyes believes that funding for the Library is important for undergraduate education.

B. March 21 Regular Check-in Meeting with VPDUE Frey

Chair Moyes and GC Chair Hestir have been asked to draft a memo to alert the faculty that the blanket approvals for accommodations for immunocompromised family members will not be extended in Fall 2022. Chair Moyes and GC Chair Hestir also discussed and agreed that the mask mandate should continue until the end of the semester. Faculty may ask their students to wear their mask in the classroom but cannot force them to do so.

II. Vice Chair's Report – Ryan Baxter – 1:10pm – 1:15pm

A. April 4 UCEP Meeting

This item was tabled for the April 22, 2022 UGC meeting.

III. Consent Calendar – 1:15pm – 1:20pm

A. The Agenda

B. [March 4 Meeting Minutes](#)

C. [February 18 Meeting Minutes](#)

D. [SoE Request – One-time Exception for Fall 2022 Online Modality](#)

E. [SSHA Request – On-time Exception for Summer 2022 Online Modality](#)

F. [SNS Request - Exception to the Deadline for Fall 2022 Implementation](#)

Action:

- The agenda was approved as presented
- The February 18 and March 4 meeting minutes were approved.
- UGC approved SoE's request for a one-time exception for Fall 2022 online modality. UGC Analyst will notify the School Instructional Manager (completed 4/8).
- UGC approved SSHA's request for a one-time exception for Summer 2022 online modality. UGC Analyst will notify the School Instructional Manager (completed 4/8).
- UGC approved SNS's request for an exception to the deadline for Fall 2022 implementation. UGC Analyst will notify the School Instructional Manager (completed 4/8).

Members agreed that Chair Moyes should reject any additional requests for the remainder of the Spring 2022 Semester.

IV. Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC) Update – Brian Utter – 1:20pm – 1:30pm

A. January 20, February 3, and March 8 PROC Meetings

Fall 2021 State of Undergraduate Assessment Report is available [here](#).

Member Utter reported on the State of Undergraduate Assessment Report for Fall 2021, linked above. The review of undergraduate and graduate programs usually occurs every seven years. The report shows a schedule of when the different program reviews occurred in AY 2020-21, as well as the different ways in which the programs were assessed, such as the review of core competencies from The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), student outcomes, etc. Member Utter also reported that several departments within SSHA have shared concerns about writing, and that there are plans for a Working Group in PROC to focus on the assessment of writing on campus.

Chair Moyes recently met with members of PROC, and she is currently drafting a charge for a Working Group for the evaluation of writing on campus. The Working Group is going to be a joint committee with members of UGC and General Education (GE). A member noted that they would like to gather additional information as a first step to the formation of this Working Group.

V. [UCIE](#) Update (March 18) – Michelle Leslie – 1:30pm – 1:35pm

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Member Leslie reported that the University Committee on International Education (UCIE) usually reviews programs through the University of California Education Abroad Program (EAP), but that it has been on hold the last two years because of COVID. Prior to the pandemic, usually about 5,000 – 6,000 students study abroad through UCEAP. This year, 1,787 students studied abroad with UCEAP. This semester, there are 822 students studying abroad, mostly in Western Europe. Member Leslie also noted that the war in Ukraine has caused a lot of anxiety and mental health issues for the students, and students are unable to access the campus mental health services while they are abroad because the counselors are not licensed outside of the United States. UCEAP is currently looking into a program called “Let’s Talk” that other campuses currently use for students who are studying abroad.

Member Leslie also reported on a UCIE meeting that took place in December 2021. At the time, there were concerns with bringing students home during the peak of the Omicron variant because if they tested positive, they had to stay and isolate. UCEAP had a lot of contingency planning for students who were required to isolate instead of coming home.

Member Leslie reported that the applications submitted for studying abroad next year have decreased to about 13,000 compared to about 15,000 pre-COVID. There has also been changes to the Summer Physics Program. The physicists on campus claimed that 8 weeks was not adequate time to teach Physics. Now, Sussex, Glasgow, and Dublin are the only sites currently offering Summer Physics.

VI. Approval of Courses – Jason Lee, Ryan Baxter, Siddaiah Yarra – 1:35pm – 1:45pm

Courses are available at the links below.

- The following courses were approved by UGC and Curriculog will be updated accordingly (completed 4/11):
 1. [BIO - 118 - Gene Editing Research Lab](#)
 2. [BIO - 140 - Genetics](#)
 3. [GASP - 034B - Art of Passion](#)
 4. [MATH - 011 - Calculus I](#)
 5. [MATH - 012 - Calculus II](#)
 6. [MATH - 021 - Calculus I for Physical Sciences and Engineering](#)
 7. [MATH - 022 - Calculus II for Physical Sciences and Engineering](#)
 8. [ESS – 011/MIST - 011 - Climate Justice](#)
 9. [GASP - 003 - Introduction to Visual Culture](#)
 10. [GASP - 006 - Global Art History](#)
 11. [GASP 055A/HIST 055A – Arts of Asia](#)
 12. [GASP 055B/HIST 055 – Arts of the Islamic World](#)
 13. [PH - 010 - Introduction to Biostatistics](#)

- UGC Analyst will contact the School Instructional Managers to seek clarification on the following courses before UGC recommends approval:
 1. [BIO 120 - General Microbiology](#)
 2. [GASP - 034C - Poetry without Fear](#)
 3. [POLI - 109 - Legislative Simulation](#)

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- Review and approval of the following courses was tabled for the April 22, 2022 UGC meeting:
 1. [BIO - 040L - Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience: Genetic Discovery on the Fly](#)
 2. [ENGR - 080 - Statistical Modeling and Data Analysis for Engineers](#)
 3. [ENGR - 091 - Professional Development: People in an Engineered World](#)

VII. Review of the Catalog Updates – Ryan Baxter, Jason Lee, Siddaiah Yarra – 1:45pm – 1:50pm
Substantive Revisions are available at the links below.

SNS: <https://ucmerced.box.com/s/76cvbqcwwiunj8gf7kao04hfvmbhtiq9>

SOE: <https://ucmerced.box.com/s/xyeocjqkq604p0ij4o26fj0a39jjnp81>

SSHA: <https://ucmerced.box.com/s/8ldjtpdqais9pxcpcii49a1gebndrhz0>

The Catalog Review Committee's comments are available [here](#).

Requested Action: Catalog Subcommittee provides its recommendations on the AY 22-23 Catalog Updates. UGC approves the Catalog Updates and notifies the Registrar by May 2, 2022.

The Catalog Review Committee noted that the SNS Catalog entries appeared incomplete. Several comments/questions were included in the Biological Sciences Catalog entry with no resolution. Members agreed to seek clarification from the SNS staff support before approval of the AY 22-23 SNS Catalog entries.

Action:

- UGC approved the SSHA and SoE Catalog revisions.
- UGC Analyst will seek clarification on the comments/questions included in the SNS Catalog revisions.
- UGC will revisit the SNS Catalog revisions at the April 22, 2022 UGC meeting.

VIII. Campus and Systemwide Review Items – 1:50pm – 2:00pm

A. Campus Review: [Proposed Revisions to English Major and Minor](#)

The proposal was distributed to the Chairs of Senate Committees, the SNS and SOE Executive Committees on February 10, 2022. The SNS and SOE Executive Committees did not provide comments.

Comments:

[AFAC](#)

[CAPRA](#)

[LASC](#)

[VPDUE](#)

[EVC/Provost](#)

[ALO](#)

Lead Reviewer: David Kaminsky

Lead Reviewer's comments are available [here](#).

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Requested Action: Members to discuss the proposal and associated comments. Vote on the proposal.

Lead Reviewer, David Kaminsky, noted that this is not a controversial revision, and members did not have any negative comments on the proposed revisions.

Action:

- UGC unanimously endorsed the Proposed Revisions to English Major and Minor.
- UGC Analyst will draft a memo with lead reviewer's comments and UGC's endorsement. Members will be invited to review the draft memo prior to transmittal to the Senate Chair.

B. Systemwide Review: [Presidential Policy on Affiliations with Certain Healthcare Organizations](#)

Requested Action: UGC to determine if Council will opine. If UGC decides to opine, identify a lead reviewer. Lead reviewer will provide comments by the April 22, 2022 meeting. Deadline for comments to the Senate Chair is **April 29, 2022**.

Action:

- Member Eileen Camfield volunteered as lead reviewer and will send her comments to the UGC Analyst by April 19, 2022 to be included in the April 22, 2022 UGC meeting agenda.

IX. Honors Program Proposal – 2:00pm – 2:20pm

Chair Moyes met with School Executive Committees and School Department Chairs to solicit faculty feedback on the Honors Program proposal. Questions raised by the faculty, and responses provided by members of the Honors Program Working Group, are available [here](#). The revised proposal is available [here](#). Chair Moyes also recommended edits to the Senate Regulations. The Committee on Rules & Elections (CRE) will review the [proposed revisions to the Senate Regulations](#) at their April 12, 2022 meeting.

Requested Action: Members discuss the revised Honors Program Proposal and revised Senate Regulations. Voting members will vote to endorse the Honors Program Proposal via email after CRE endorses the proposed revisions to the Senate Regulations.

A member noted that their prior concerns regarding equity issues have been adequately addressed and is now supportive of this version of the proposal. Chair Moyes reported that she has recently received feedback about concerns regarding staffing for the proposed program. Chair Moyes explained that the Honors Program would not be successful without staff. Asking for one staff member and one student is equivalent to what the GE Program currently has. Chair Moyes feels that not asking for staff is setting the program up for failure. Chair Moyes also recently met with EVC/Provost Camfield and VPDUE Frey, and they did not have any concerns with the budgetary model.

Action:

- Members are to review the [revised Honors Program Proposal](#) and the [faculty questions and responses](#).
- UGC Analyst will ask UGC voting members to provide their vote on the Honors Program

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Proposal via email following CRE's approval of the [revised Senate Regulations](#) (after April 12, 2022).

X. Other Business? – 2:20pm – 2:25pm

No other business was discussed.

XI. Informational Items:

- A. [Assembly Approval of Revision to Senate Regulation 478 \(IGETC Area 7\)](#)
- B. [Continuation of Interim General Education Reciprocity Agreement](#)
- C. [Academic Council Response to Calls for Universal Hybrid Instruction](#)
- D. [UGC Weekly Digest](#)

XII. Executive Session – Voting Members Only – 2:25pm – 2:30pm