

Undergraduate Council (UGC)

Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 13, 2022
1:00-2:25pm

I. Chair's Report – Holley Moyes – 1:00pm – 1:10pm**A. May 12 Meeting of the Division**

Chair Moyes shared the following updates from the May 12 Meeting of the Division:

- Chair Westerling shared the major, recent topics of discussion from Academic Council which include some UC campuses' plans to implement fully online degrees, as well as a Memorial to the Regents that requests investments in UC's infrastructure that will reduce on-campus fossil fuel combustion by at least 60% of current levels by 2030 and by 95% of current levels by 2035.
- The Chancellor provided an update on the Oracle Financial System acknowledging that although the system is not yet fully optimal, it has improved since the Fall semester. The campus continues to hire more staff and make human capital investments to support the campus research enterprise.
- EVC/Provost Camfield acknowledged that UC Merced's enrollment projections have not yet been met. Increasing enrollment is critical to UC Merced's success.
- The proposed amendments to Senate Bylaw Part II, Title II, Section 3.B.2.B. Student Selection, Appointment, and Participation were endorsed.
- The proposed amendments to Senate Regulation Part II, Section 4. Undergraduate Honors were endorsed.
- Another round of campus review of the Honors Program Proposal will be conducted in Fall 2022 before the final program proposal is put to a Division vote.

B. May 10 Special DivCo Meeting

Chair Moyes presented her Honors Program Proposal PowerPoint to DivCo members at their special May 10, 2022 meeting. DivCo members unanimously endorsed the proposal and agreed to have the faculty vote on the proposal in Fall 2022, but to add the revisions to the Regulations to the May 12 Meeting of the Division. DivCo members agreed to handle the revisions to the Regulations first and then hold a faculty vote on the proposal in Fall 2022. There will be a "soft launch" of the Honors Program in Spring 2023 to existing/enrolled students. If the faculty vote

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passes, a full launch will take place be to all students, including incoming students.

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

- A. The Agenda
- B. [April 8 Meeting Minutes](#)
- C. [April 22 Meeting Minutes](#)

Action:

- The agenda was approved as presented.
- The April 8 meeting minutes were approved.
- The April 22 meeting minutes were approved.

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 (completed 5/16):
 1. [BIO - 148F - Ecology Research in the Field and Lab](#)
 2. [ESS - 148F - Ecology Research in the Field and Lab](#)
 3. [ENGR - 080 - Statistical Modeling and Data Analysis for Engineers](#)
 4. [GASP - 034C - Poetry without Fear](#) (approved with the caveat that the course is cross-listed with a Writing course).
 5. [POLI - 109 - Legislative Simulation](#)
- The following course was denied by UGC, and Curriculog will be updated accordingly (completed 5/16):
 1. [SPAN - 010 - Spanish for Heritage Speakers I](#)

IV. Consultation with Director of Degree Completion Program, Michael Pierick; Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management, Jill Orcutt; and Director of Summer Session and Extension, Tammy Johnson – 1:25pm – 1:40pm

Courses are available at the links below.

1. [ESPT - X002 - Introduction to Esports Organizations](#)
2. [ESPT - X005 - Culture and Communications in Esports](#)
3. [ESPT - X010 - Esports Marketing](#)
4. [ESPT - X011 - Esports Project Management and Operations](#)

Requested Action: UGC members vote on the four ESPT courses.

Chair Moyes shared her concerns that achieving 12 credits for completion of the Esport courses is excessive for incoming students at UC Merced. Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management (AVC) Orcutt suggested reducing the number of units for each course to 2 units.

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Members were concerned that reducing the units for each course to 2 units may reduce the appeal of the courses. AVC Orcutt ensured that the courses will remain of interest to students who would like to pursue a gaming degree. Chair Moyes also recommended offering the courses with a different prefix.

Members also noted that it is concerning that the instructors responsible for teaching the Esport courses have not been determined. Director of Degree Completion Program Pierick clarified that all instructors are approved by Extension needs. The instructor qualifications include having a master's degree in Sports Management, Marketing/Design, or related field. The candidate must also have a minimum of five years teaching experience or having worked within the profession. The approval is granted by the Dean, and the hiring decision is made by the Academic Personnel. A member requested clarification on whether these courses are considered vocational courses. AVC Orcutt stated that the courses are not considered vocational courses, as many institutions already offer gaming degree programs.

After the three guests left the meeting, VPDUE Frey pointed out that the adjudication of these courses would be entirely under the direction of a unit without a PhD or academic connection. On other campuses, the Extension Dean does not appoint the faculty directly, but rather appoints them through a department. A member shared their concerns that UC Merced's Extension does not have academic leadership. UGC agreed to ask Extension to partner with an academic unit to serve as a sponsor of these courses.

Action:

- UGC agreed to ask Extension to partner with an academic unit to serve as a sponsor of these courses.
- UGC Analyst will contact Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management, Jill Orcutt, and Director of Summer Session and Extension, Tammy Johnson.

V. Proposed Charge for a Writing Working Group – Chair Moyes – 1:40pm – 1:50pm

During the April 8 UGC meeting, Chair Moyes announced that she was drafting a charge for a Writing Working Group to assess writing. The draft charge is forthcoming.

Action:

- Chair Moyes will circulate the charge to members via email for comments in early June.

VI. VPDUE Frey Report – 1:50pm – 2:00pm

A. Academic review structures, particularly as they apply to the Merritt Writing Program (MWP)

VPDUE Frey shared a [PowerPoint](#), which includes the definition and purpose of academic program review. [The Undergraduate Degree Program Review Policies and Procedures](#) state that UGC is responsible for the establishment and review of undergraduate programs. UGC also holds the authority to alter the type, format, requirements, review cycle, and the program review. VPDUE Frey stated that there has been some discussion on the Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC) about whether the Merritt Writing Program (MWP) constitutes a program for purposes of review.

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The MWP currently delivers a Writing minor, and associated faculty teach Writing 1, Writing 10, and Writing in the Disciplines. The program is also in the process of adding a major that will be launched this year. Writing 1, Writing 10, and Writing in the Disciplines are General Education (GE) courses that do not belong to any other major or minor degree requirements. Writing requirements are singularly unique, as they are the only GE requirements that are satisfiable by a single course.

The [GE Bylaws](#) state that the GE program is responsible for monitoring, reviewing, and advising GE curriculum. This includes recommending curricular revisions and assisting with assessment and program review. VPDUE Frey stated that the concern is that if the MWP is reviewed as an independent program under program review, the activities outlined in the program review would be conducted by the MWP Non-Senate and Senate faculty under the oversight of the SSHA Dean.

VPDUE Frey shared a summary of the PowerPoint. Writing 1 and Writing 10 serve the entire undergraduate population. VPDUE shared a recent study from the Institutional Research & Decision Support (IRDS), which shows that Writing 1 and Writing 10 grades were amongst the strongest predictors of first-year retention. These courses are exclusively a subset of the GE program and are not part of any other academic curriculum. The Academic Senate has charged the General Education Executive Committee (GEEC) with the oversight of the GE program, including program assessment and recommending curriculum revisions. The parent unit of a program under review directs the self-study, review team membership, and action plan.

VPDUE Frey shared next steps with the committee, which included the need to define “program” for purposes of program review. The program review process does not define what a program is, nor what constitutes a program. There is also a need to reconcile the discrepancy between MWP review and the GEEC charge. VPDUE Frey suggested to pause the MWP review until these issues are addressed. A member suggested consulting with the Writing faculty. Since there is such a small number of Writing faculty on campus, it is important for them to provide insight on what it would mean to have multiple reviews for the Writing program. VPDUE Frey agreed and suggested that review for the Writing major/minor and other courses be merged with departmental review. Chair Moyes recommended delaying the PROC review by one semester to one year.

Action:

- UGC agreed to postpone the review of the Merritt Writing Program, by one semester to one year, due to resource concerns.
- UGC Analyst will work with Chair Moyes on next steps.

VII. VCSA Nies Report – Charles Nies – 2:00pm – 2:05pm

A. Campus Policing

VCSA Nies reported on this item at the April 21, 2022 DivCo meeting. The minutes are available [here](#).

VCSA Nies shared the [Campus and Community Safety](#) website with members and reported that, after the murders of George Floyd and other racial reckonings, the University of California hosted a series of symposiums during AY 20-21. A report was submitted to President Drake, and a series of guidelines was created that focused on campus community safety:

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- Community and Service-Driven Safety
- A Holistic, Inclusive and Tiered Response Model for Safety Services
- Transparency and Continuous Improvement Through Data
- Accountability and Independent Oversight

VCSA Nies noted that all ten campuses will be invited to review and provide their input on a series of recommendations formed by a systemwide workgroup regarding vehicles, uniforms, and equipment. The series of recommendations are related to what uniforms exist on the campuses, not just for sworn officers, but for other individuals that are part of the campus safety plan; what titles are used; what the squad cars will look like moving forward; and what equipment that the various individuals involved in campus peace efforts will wear, use, and have the ability to deploy.

A member wondered about the plan moving forward and whether stakeholders are satisfied with the changes. VCSA Nies stated that various presentations have been given regarding the progress. The plans are still in draft format and feedback is still being collected from the different campuses. A regular assessment will then follow.

VIII. UGC Goals and Priorities for AY 22-23– All – 2:05pm – 2:20pm

Members were invited on May 9, 2022 to add their UGC AY 22-23 goals and priorities to Chair Moyes' [Google Doc](#).

Chair Moyes shared several items that she had added to the Google Doc related to business that will be addressed next year. She encouraged members to add their items to the Google Doc.

Action:

- UGC members are to add additional goals and priorities to the Google Doc, which will be discussed in Fall 2022.

IX. Other Business? – 2:20pm – 2:25pm

No other business was discussed.

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