

**Undergraduate Council (UGC)****Meeting Minutes****Thursday, November 9, 2023****1:00pm – 2:30pm****I. Consent Calendar – 1:00pm – 1:05pm**

- A. The Agenda
- B. [October 26 Meeting Minutes](#)

**Action:**

- The agenda and October 26 meeting minutes were approved as presented.
- UGC Analyst will update the Senate website accordingly.

**C. [Update on Honors “H” Course designation delegation](#)****Action:**

- UGC approved the request for the Honors/Undergraduate Division Executive Committee to be included as a review step in the Curriculog workflow processes for newly created or modifying existing “H” courses prior to UGC’s approval.
- UGC Analyst will notify the Office of the Registrar.

**D. [Registrar’s Message re: Summer Sessions and Holiday Scheduling](#)****Action:**

- UGC approved Registrar’s message encouraging faculty to refrain from scheduling their summer classes on the day of the week that Juneteenth, July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Memorial Day fall on.
- UGC Analyst will notify the Office of the Registrar.

**II. Chair’s Report – Heather Bortfeld – 1:05pm – 1:15pm****A. November 6 UCEP Meeting**

- Chair Bortfeld and UCR Professor Eric Schwitzgebel presented the Deloitte Report, which revealed that there are substantial issues with UC Online and that continuing the program in its current state is not an option.
- Deloitte’s three recommendations are to: 1) provide more funding to improve UC Online’s functioning; 2) seriously rethink the program; or 3) disband UC Online and let campuses lead online efforts.
- Discussions were held regarding the future of graduate education and its impacts on undergraduate education, which are presumably substantial in light of the decrease in teaching assistant (TA) appointments.

**B. November 9 DivCo Meeting**

- CoR Chair Tao Ye reported on the Oracle Task Force and reminded DivCo members that campus leadership issued a campus wide announcement about the Task Force without prior consultation with the faculty representatives. The Task Force continues to work to find solutions to the many recurring system issues. A UGC member noted that she would like to encourage the Task Force to provide metrics to measure and verify improvement rather than just providing updates on how the system could be improved.
- Members discussed the pros and cons associated with the new APM 672 – Negotiated Salary Program. The program is beneficial for retaining faculty and keeping students and postdocs engaged in the professoriate pathway; however, several committees pointed out the inequities.
- Further discussions were held regarding increasing class sizes, and whether authority to do so lies with the faculty or with the Academic Senate. Members discussed the importance of following current policies, and the Leadership should not make changes without first consulting with the faculty.

**III. Vice Chair’s Report – Valerie Leppert – 1:15pm – 1:20pm****A. November 1 PROC Meeting**

The Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC) involves members of the Administration and members of the Senate who are responsible for undergraduate and graduate program review. PROC receives the self-studies of several programs and formulates questions for the external review team to consider. Vice Chair Leppert reported that one consistent area of consideration across programs is writing, which is a shared responsibility between the writing programs and disciplines. PROC is also currently assessing the impact of budget restraints and TA reductions and determining if students become employed at the level of education they have attained. Evidence from WASC suggests that many students may be employed in lower-level-paying positions; however, there seems to be progress on getting a improving future job outcomes for UC Merced students.

Vice Chair Leppert also reported on one particular program review where questions were raised about foundational service courses and whether they align with the program’s needs. Vice Chair Leppert raised the idea of obtaining feedback from other programs who depend on those departments’ service courses for the preliminary education of their students.

**IV. Proposed Policy on Assignment of Faculty-Authored Course Materials – Policy Subcommittee Members Ryan Baxter and Alejandro Gutierrez - 1:20pm – 1:35pm**

At the October 12, 2023 UGC meeting, members discussed former VPDUE Frey’s request for UGC to develop a policy for COI with course material selection when the instructor is the author and receives royalties/profits.

The Policy Subcommittee offered comments on the proposed policy, available [here](#). Members of UGC agreed to include in the policy Open Access Resources, omit language related to sabbatical,

and replace “textbook” with “course materials”. The latest version of the proposed policy is available [here](#).

On October 18, 2023, the Library and Scholarly Communications Committee (LASC) was invited to review and comment on the proposed policy. LASC’s comments are available [here](#).

**Requested Action:** Members discuss the proposed policy and LASC’s comments. Members determine if additional revisions should be made to the draft policy.

Member Gutierrez summarized the draft policy and noted that the Library and Scholarly Communications Committee (LASC) offered comments. LASC was supportive of the proposed policy but offered three recommendations to strengthen it: 1) be more explicit about the level of detail instructors should include in the proposal they submit to their Department Chairs; 2) more strongly stress that it is the responsibility of instructors (and not Department Chairs) to demonstrate that they fulfilled all criteria; and 3) clarify how Department Chairs should evaluate proposals that do not meet all criteria.

Members appreciated LASC’s thoughtful review but agreed that further revision to the policy was not necessary. A consultant noted a typo at the beginning of the policy: OER should read “Open Education Resources” rather than “Open Access Resources”.

**Action:**

- UGC approved the proposed policy as is with a minor modification to revise “Open Access Resources” to “Open Education Resources”.
- UGC Analyst will transmit the final version of the policy to DivCo.

V. **First Semester Dismissal – All – 1:35pm – 1:55pm**

At the October 12, 2023 UGC meeting, voting members voted in executive session to approve former VPDUE Frey’s proposal to not academically dismiss students after their first semester.

On October 18, 2023, CRE was invited to review the proposal to ensure that the change is in compliance with the UC Merced Senate Regulation II.3.B (Academic Dismissal): <https://senate.ucmerced.edu/node/991#p2s3b2>

On November 2, 2023, CRE offered comments, available [here](#).

In sum, as recommended by Executive Director Paul and confirmed by CRE, the Senate Regulation needs to be amended. Details are provided in CRE’s memo.

**Requested Action:** Members vote in executive session to amend SR II.3.B. Any amendments will need to be approved by the Academic Senate prior to implementation.

Members agreed to amend Senate Regulation II.3.B (Academic Dismissal) in the Spring 2024 semester. CRE noted in their memo that UGC is welcome to temporarily approve the practice of not academically dismissing students after their first year through Spring 2024

until the amendments are implemented, to which UGC agreed. UGC Analyst confirmed that she will relay this information to the School Advising Directors.

**Action:**

- Members agreed to implement a temporary practice of not academically dismissing students after their first semester until the Senate Regulation can be formally revised in Spring 2024.
- UGC Analyst will notify CRE and School Advising Directors.

**VI. Approval of Courses – CRF Subcommittee Members Francois Blanchette, Felicia Lopez, and Alexander Petersen – 1:55pm – 2:15pm**

Courses are available at the links below. The CRF Subcommittee's recommendations are available [here](#).

- The following courses were approved, and Curriculog will be updated accordingly (completed 11/9):

1. [MSE 128 Electronic Materials and Semiconductor Device Fabrication](#)
2. [CHE 128 Electronic Materials and Semiconductor Device Fabrication](#)
3. [MSE 001 Introduction to Chemical and Materials Engineering](#)
4. [CHE 001 Introduction to Chemical and Materials Engineering](#)
5. [ENG 001 Introduction to Environmental Communications](#)
6. [EH 001 Introduction to Environmental Communications](#)
7. [ENG - 019 - Animals and Literature](#)
8. [EH - 019 - Animals and Literature](#)
9. [ENG - 058 - Literature of the Natural Environment](#)
10. [EH - 058 - Literature of the Natural Environment](#)
11. [ENG 059 - Apocalyptic Literature](#)
12. [EH - 059 - Apocalyptic Literature](#)
13. [ENG - 060 - Science Fiction & Climate Disaster](#)
14. [EH - 060 - Science Fiction & Climate Disaster](#)
15. [ENG - 067 - Environmental Justice in Beast Fables](#)
16. [EH - 067 - Environmental Justice in Beast Fables](#)
17. [ENG 108 - Romanticism and Apocalypse](#)
18. [EH 108 - Romanticism and Apocalypse](#)
19. [ENG 122 - Nature Writing and the Environment](#)
20. [EH 122 - Nature Writing and the Environment](#)
21. [ENG 123 - Literature and Animal Studies](#)
22. [EH 123 - Literature and Animal Studies](#)
23. [ENG 125 - Ecology and Indigenous Religious Traditions](#)
24. [EH 125 - Ecology and Indigenous Religious Traditions](#)
25. [ENG 167 - Theatre and Ecology](#)
26. [GASP 103Q - Theatre and Ecology](#)
27. [EH 167 - Theatre and Ecology](#)
28. [ENG 168 - Shakespeare and Ecology](#)

29. [EH 168 - Shakespeare and Ecology](#)
30. [ENG 183 - Literature and Queer Ecology](#)
31. [EH 183 - Literature and Queer Ecology](#)
32. [ENGR - 080 - Statistical Modeling and Data Analysis](#)
33. [ENGR - 143 - Statistical Quality Control](#)
34. [ENGR - 145 - Machine Learning for Engineers](#)
35. [ENGR - 193 - Engineering Capstone Design I](#)
36. [ENGR - 194 - Engineering Capstone Design II](#)

➤ The following courses was rejected to ask the proposer for minor revision (completed 11/9):

1. [SPAN XM002 Elementary Spanish II](#) – recommend including in the supplemental questionnaire more ideas for lessons or activities that will take advantage of the online format.

## **VII. Any Other Business – 2:15pm – 2:20pm**

VCSA Nies reported on the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). UCM's current competitors through the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) are small private institutions with typical enrollments of around 2,000 students and include large expenses due to traveling to Arizona where several of the competitive schools are located. UCM has considered moving to the NCAA Division II and the California Coastal Athletic Association, which involves travelling within California, thus reducing travelling expenses. The NCAA is comprised of 12 CSUs. VCSA Nies reported that all 12 CSU presidents unanimously voted in support of UCM joining the NCAA Division II. The next step is for UCM to apply to the NCAA, and an application will be submitted near the end of January/beginning of February. Several committees will be developed regardless of whether UC Merced enters the NCAA. Faculty Athletic Representative Nella Van Dyke will serve on the Athletic Compliance Committee, and an Athletic Advisory Committee will be formed, which the Committees on Committees (CoC) will help to identify a faculty member to serve.

## **VIII. Executive Session – Voting Members Only – 2:20pm – 2:30pm**

No meeting minutes were taken during executive session. The action items were shared with voting members.