[Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
1:00pm – 2:30pm

I.   **Consent Calendar – 1:00pm – 1:05pm**
   A. The Agenda
   B. [March 5 Meeting Minutes](#)

   Action:
   ➢ Members are to let UGC Analyst know of any revisions to the March 5 meeting
     minutes **by 5:00pm, Friday, March 22, 2024.** Otherwise, they will be considered
     approved, and will be posted on the Senate website along with today's agenda.

II. **Chair's Report – Christopher Viney – 1:05pm – 1:20pm**
   A. March 18 UCEP Meeting

       UCEP members discussed the UC Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative
       Websites. The systemwide Senate disagreed with many of the suggestions for restricting
       what is included on departmental or administrative websites.

       Chair Viney shared PowerPoint slides on the systemwide budget for current operations,
       which revealed several different income streams with Medical Centers being the largest.

       UCEP plans to opine on the Report of the University of California Systemwide
       Advisory Work Group on Students with Disabilities, which will also be discussed at the
       April 2 UGC meeting.

   B. March 11 DivCo Meeting

       Members discussed Senate Regulation 630.E - "campus experience" requirement, which
       mandates all undergraduates complete a minimum of six units of in-person courses
       during a quarter/semester for one year, with the in-person course defined as having at
       least 50% of instruction occur face-to-face. DivCo is considering issuing a statement
       reaffirming UC Merced's existing policy.

   C. March 7 and 14 TAS Budget Meeting

       Chair Viney discussed the progress reports from the TAS Work Groups, available [here](#),
       which include several suggestions for TAS allocation and managing TAS costs
       effectively, as well as a process for prioritization.

A member raised several concerns including lab classes and ABET accreditation. Chair Viney noted that accreditation for any program that needs it is included in the priority list.

Members also discussed the monies that are not being returned to departments nor the lecturers.

Chair Viney noted the importance of continuing the work on the TAS Work Groups beyond this academic year because once a solution is identified, the parameters may change.

III.   Update on March 15 UCIE Meeting – Greg Wright – 1:20pm – 1:25pm

Member Wright summarized the March 15 University Committee on International Education (UCIE) meeting highlighting the following main points:

- UC Merced has low participation in study abroad; however, Chancellor Muñoz is active in promoting it.
- Members discussed FAFSA issues on admissions and whether students will be able to participate in study-abroad programs.
- Discussions were held regarding the possible reviving of an international summer physics program and whether a physics program can be delivered properly in an intense 6-week timeframe.

A member noted that several universities with a diverse student population are looking at different models for an international education experience because of family obligations that may make it difficult for students to take part in. Member Wright will inquire about this at the next UCIE meeting.

Member Wright also clarified that UCIE opines on standards for international students and on the fraction of international students that should be admitted into UC Merced and other campuses.

IV.   Campus Review Items – All – 1:25pm – 1:55pm
    A. Data Science and Policy Analysis Minor Proposal
       The policy governing the review and approval of Undergraduate Degree Programs is available here.

       Lead Reviewers: Alexander Petersen
       Lead reviewer's draft memo and Senate Committees' comments have been shared with UGC voting members.

       Requested Action: Members discuss the proposal and lead reviewer's assessment. Voting Members vote in executive session to approve the proposal if there is consensus.

       Member Petersen summarized his assessment highlighting the following main points:

- The new minor is planned to launch in Fall 2025 and relates closely to the Data Science and Computing and the Data Science and Analytics majors that will launch next year.
- The new minor has the endorsement of the SSHA Executive Committee, SSHA Curriculum Committee, and SSHA faculty.
- The new program builds upon existing courses offered by Political Science as well as one course offered by Management of Innovation, Sustainability and Technology (MIST).
- No new resources are being requested, and thus received strong support from CAPRA, Interim EVC/Provost Zatz, and Interim VPDUE Utter.

Member Petersen shared the following two minor concerns:
- Would it be possible to open the minor for declaration in Fall 2024 since there are no new courses and no new faculty being requested?
- There is a Policy Analytics emphasis track that may preclude students from declaring the minor, and it was recommended that the Data Science Faculty work to clarify this issue through Catalog modifications, student advisor guidance, and direct communication to students.

Member Petersen clarified that the proposed program is a minor focusing on the application of data science methods in political science studies and practice, so there is little concern over students being confused as to the differences between the proposed minor and the Data Science & Computation (DSC) major.

Action:
- ➢ Voting members unanimously approved the draft memo.
- ➢ UGC Analyst will transmit the final memo to the Senate Chair.

B. [Psychology B.S. Degree Program & Amendments to B.A. Degree Program](#)
   The policy governing the review and approval of Undergraduate Degree Programs is available [here](#).

   Lead Reviewers: Elaine Denny
   Lead reviewer's draft memo and Senate Committees' comments have been shared with UGC voting members.

   Requested Action: Members discuss the proposal and lead reviewer's assessment. Voting Members vote in executive session to approve the proposal if there is consensus.

   Member Denny summarized her assessment highlighting the following main points:
   - There is the addition of six emphasis tracks and five new courses.
   - There are at least six other UC campuses that offer a B.S. in psychology.
   - Offering a B.S. track that provides official training in data analytics will prepare students for the job market.
   - There is concern that TA demands will rise if student enrollment increases in

the key courses due to the new major's appeal to pre-med students. Given the increased costs of TAs, where would the funding derive from?

- The proposal would benefit from including a sample course schedule of how a pre-med student could meet all the pre-med requirements and complete the B.S. degree simultaneously.

Action:
➢ Voting members unanimously approved additional language in the draft memo.
➢ UGC Analyst will draft the additional language in the existing memo, and Chair Viney will review.
➢ Voting members will be invited to review the updated draft memo prior to transmittal to the Senate Chair.

V.   **Approval of Courses[1] – CRF Subcommittee Members Elaine Denny, Bin Liu, Felicia Lopez, Alexander Petersen, and Greg Wright – 1:55pm – 2:05pm**
Courses are available at the links below.

Action:
➢ The following courses were approved, and Curriculog will be updated accordingly:
1. PSY - 131 - Cognitive Development and Education (modify existing; Spring 2025)
2. ME - 137 - Computer Aided Engineering (modify existing; Spring 2025)

VI.   **Any Other Business – 2:05pm – 2:10pm**

No other business was discussed.

VI.   **Executive Session – Voting Members Only – 2:10pm – 2:30pm**

No minutes were recorded during the executive session. The action items were shared with UGC voting members.

RECUSALS:
Alejandro Gutierrez - ME