

Undergraduate Council (UGC)

## Agenda

Friday, October 25, 2024

2:00pm – 3:30pm

ADMIN 245

**I. Consent Calendar – 2:00pm – 2:05pm**

- A. Today's Agenda
- B. [October 11 Meeting Minutes](#)

**Action:**

- Today's agenda (with a minor revision to remove VPDUE Bergerson's report) and the October 11 meeting minutes were approved as presented.
- The UGC Analyst updated the Senate website accordingly.

**II. Chair's Report – Chair Sharping – 2:05pm – 2:15pm**

- A. October 18 Meeting with School Advising Directors – Double Majors and Minors

Chair Sharping summarized the three main points from the meeting:

1. **Limited Units:** There are not many extra units within a major that can be counted toward a double major or minor.
2. **Prerequisites:** The prerequisite requirements for minors can extend the timeline for completion of a double major or minor, especially since some classes are only offered in specific semesters. Students often need to begin planning for a minor in their junior year.
3. **Policy Restrictions:** Current policies restrict students to sharing only one course between their major and minor, typically a lower division course. The advisors suggested that allowing the sharing of an upper division course might help students complete their degrees with fewer additional classes.

Vice Chair Gutierrez will provide an additional update at the November 8 UGC meeting.

**B. October 21 DivCo Meeting**

- Senate Chair Mitchell discussed budgetary planning. The Governor proposes annual base budget adjustments of 5% for the UC in 2023-24 through 2026-27.
- Senate Chair Mitchell provided an update on capital projects and space noting that the Medical Education building is proceeding; the Promise Housing Project with Merced Community College is underway and is scheduled for

groundbreaking in Spring 2025; COB3 planning is proceeding; and a space utilization study has been conducted to optimize both indoor and outdoor space for various academic and administrative functions.

- The Office of the Provost is collaborating with the Committee on Academic Personnel and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) to address current budgetary challenges and have drafted a preliminary plan to better distribute resources among the three schools.
- Vice Provost for Academic Personnel (VPAP) Hansford attended the meeting and reported on the implementation of SB 791 and AB 81, which are designed to prevent individuals with prior conduct violations from being hired at UC campuses. Applicants will be required to sign a consent and attestation form authorizing background checks and disclosing past conduct violations.
- Chair Mitchell provided an update on current systemwide searches.
- DivCo discussed EDI's proposal regarding hate speech and bias in student evaluations, which UGC will discuss at its November 8 meeting.
- EDI also proposed to dissolve the Faculty Equity Advisor (FEA) program and replace it with "Strength Through Equity & Diversity (STEAD)", which is a training initiative to promote awareness and equity in searches.

Chair Sharping also mentioned that he has been granting several emergency course requests from the Schools for an exception to UGC's October 14, 2024 deadline for Spring 2025 implementation. He is happy to copy any members on the approvals if they would like to be informed.

### III. VPDUE Bergerson's Report – 2:15pm – 2:25pm

#### A. Guidance on student absence due to illness

This item was tabled for the November 8 UGC meeting.

### IV. Update on October 17 UCOPE Meeting – Susan Varnot – 2:25pm – 2:30pm

Members of UCOPE discussed the following items:

- **Budget Concerns:** UC Health constitutes over half of the university's operating budget, and combined with tight state funding, suggests potential challenges in resource allocation moving forward.
- **AI Work Group:** No concrete decisions regarding AI have been made; however, there is formation of a Senate work group to explore AI's impact on instruction, academic integrity, and faculty workload.
- **UCOP Presidential Search:** UCOP President Drake will retire next June, and recruitment efforts for his replacement are taking place.
- **Academic Calendar Proposal:** There is a push for a system-wide academic calendar that follows the semester system at all UC's, which could impact instruction days, research flexibility, and need for additional faculty and space.
- **Policy Revisions:** There are revisions being made to the faculty code of

conduct policy in light of state mandates on expressive activities, as well as revision to the administration of discipline procedures to ensure fair treatment.

- **UCOPE Sunset:** There is a potential sunseting of UCOPE due to reduced responsibilities following the retirement of the analytical writing placement exam.
- **Campus Updates:**
  - UC Davis has issues surrounding the governance of the campus writing program and the chemistry placement practices.
  - UCI has ongoing discussions about digital SAT and Smarter Balanced Assessment System (SBAC) scores and the potential establishment of a math equivalent to the Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC).
  - UCR shared a report on math placement outcomes highlighting student dissatisfaction leading to concerns about testing and preparedness.
  - Members also noted challenges, such as the reliance on unproctored online tests and the impact of Covid-19 on learning.
- **Systemwide Review Item:** Proposed revisions to the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC), with an emphasis for an impact analysis before implementation because of the concerns raised about availability of GE courses and funding for General Education.
- **Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR):** there has been a Call for longitudinal data to assess the outcomes of writing assessments in light of AI and Covid-19. UCOP announced that they will not be accepting the digital SAT scores to meet the ELWR. Given the small numbers of digital SAT scores received in Fall 2024, more scores are needed in future years to analyze the predictive validity of digital SAT RW scores with regards to post ELWR Writing grades.

#### V. **Update on October 18 UCIE Meeting – Greg Wright – 2:30pm – 2:35pm**

Member Wright reported that study abroad programs in Italy and France are closing, and new summer programs will be offered in Tokyo and Sydney.

UCIE Members held discussions about international students under the Trump Administration. Additional information regarding Project 2025 from the Heritage Foundation is available here: <https://www.insightintodiversity.com/project-2025-what-does-it-mean-for-education/>

#### VI. **Update on October 21 PROC Meeting – Catherine Keske – 2:35pm – 2:45pm**

PROC representative Keske reported that PROC is conducting business as usual. Members of PROC acknowledged UGC's review of campus policies for double majors and minors.

Program reviews were conducted for Life and Environmental Sciences (LES) and

Molecular and Cell Biology (MCB). Members discussed the burden of frequent and overlapping reviews for programs where separate divisions are involved.

PROC representative Keske also provided an update on the administrative review of programs. A meeting has been scheduled for the end of November, but no further details have been provided.

## VII. Campus Review Item – Alejandro Gutierrez - 2:45pm – 2:55pm

### A. [SSHA Reorganization Proposal](#)

The revised Bylaws provide clearer role descriptions, emphasize the creation and function of Section Councils, and update quorum and voting requirements to ensure consistency.

**Lead Reviewer:** Alejandro Gutierrez

The lead reviewer's comments have been shared with voting members.

Vice Chair Gutierrez was unable to attend today's meeting. Chair Sharping summarized Vice Chair Gutierrez's draft memo highlighting points pertaining to delegation of authority, the selection process for Associate Deans, the focus on Junior faculty, Section sizes, the future of the Merritt Writing Program (MWP), the tables within the proposal that reflect representation of each proposed structure, and questions about the Gallo School of Management.

Members inquired about the following:

- The Economics and Business Management (EBM) proposal in relation to the Gallo School. It was clarified that there are two proposals: the 2S plan and the 2S+ plan (EBM included).
- How undergraduate students will be affected and whether they will know where to go for academic advising and other resources.
- Including the MWP in the smaller school may not be the best approach. SSHA currently carries the budgetary burden of the MWP even though the program serves all students within the university. Putting the MWP in the smaller proposed School may further negatively impact the deficit.
- The MWP has a national standard for class size that does not match the modeling on campus. It may be worth noting in UGC's memo that a more coherent and sustainable plan for the MWP is warranted.

### **Action:**

- Members are to provide any additional comments **by 10:00am, Wednesday, October 30, 2024.**
- UGC Analyst will work with Chair Sharping to finalize a memo.
- Comments are due to the Senate Chair **by Monday, November 4, 2024.**

**VIII. Approval of Courses<sup>1</sup> – Santosh Chandrasekhar, Haiyan Liu, and Maria Zoghbi - 2:55pm – 3:10pm****Action:**

- The following courses were approved, and Curriculog has been updated accordingly:
  1. [ANTH - 033 - Peoples, Plagues, and Diseases of the Past](#) (new; Fall 2025)
  2. [BIO - 170 - Neurobiology](#) (modify existing; Fall 2025)
  3. [COMM - 149 - Topics in Business Communication](#) (new; Fall 2025)
  4. [ME - 152 - Digital Twins](#) (new; Fall 2025)
  5. [MSE - 194 - Capstone Design](#) (new; Spring 2025)
  6. [ROTC - 002A - Team and Leadership Fundamentals](#) (new; Fall 2025)
  7. [ROTC - 002B - Team and Leadership Fundamentals](#) (new; Spring 2026)
  8. [ROTC - 104A - Leading People and Effective Communication](#) (new; Fall 2025)

**Action:**

- Members agreed to ask for clarification on the following course:
  1. [BIO - 147 - Mushrooms](#) (new; Fall 2025) – clarification on whether proposers would like to restrict to upper division or include a prerequisite.
  2. [CHE - 150 - Unit Operations Lab I](#) (new; Fall 2025) – provide more generalized language for TA needs.
  3. [COMM - 151 - Social Media](#) (new; Fall 2025) – references syllabus but no syllabus is attached.
  4. [DSC - 100 - Advanced Data Science](#) (new; Spring 2025) – Discussion reads as a lab, and the description is missing for coursework to be completed outside of the classroom.
  5. [SOC - 001 - Introduction to Sociology](#) (modify existing; Fall 2025) – discussion sections have been removed but it is noted that the discussions have assignments that count toward the GE requirement.

**Action:**

- Members agreed to wait to approve [COMM - 169 - Topics in Linguistics](#) (new; Fall 2025) until the mentioned prerequisite COMM 060 is developed.

**IX. Any Other Business – 3:10pm – 3:15pm**

No other business was discussed.

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<sup>1</sup> RECUSALS  
Catherine – CHE, MSE  
Alejandro - ME

**X. Executive Session – Voting Members Only - 3:15pm – 3:30pm**

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