

## **UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL (UGC) ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020**

### **To the Merced Division of the Academic Senate:**

The Undergraduate Council (UGC) and its standing subcommittees held a total of 14 regularly scheduled meetings and conducted some business via email with respect to its duties as outlined in UC Merced's [Senate Bylaw II.IV.2](#). The Chair of UGC attended Divisional Council meetings and provided regular updates at each UGC meeting.

The structure of UGC and the issues that the Council considered this year are described below.

### **Undergraduate Council Organization and Representation on Systemwide Committees**

- Divisional Council Representative: UGC Chair Jay Sharping
- Admissions and Financial Aid: This subcommittee was chaired by UGC Vice Chair and BOARS Representative Matt Hibbing.
- University Committee on Preparatory Education: UGC member Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez
- University Committee on Educational Policy: UGC Chair Jay Sharping
- University Committee on International Education: UGC member Michelle Leslie
- Periodic Review and Oversight Committee Representative: UGC member Susan Amussen (Fall) and Chih-Chun Chien (Spring)
- Library and Scholarly Communications Committee: UGC member Rowena Gray.
- Budget Working Group: UGC member Sholeh Quinn
- CRFs Subcommittee: Chair Jay Sharping and members Glynis Gawn and Eva de Alba.
- Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force: Jay Sharping

Ad-hoc subcommittees were formed for the reviews of nominations for the Undergraduate Distinguished Teaching Awards for Senate and for Non-Senate Faculty, and for the review of the AY 20-21 Catalog. The names of the Awards recipients are available here:

[https://senate.ucmerced.edu/senate\\_awards](https://senate.ucmerced.edu/senate_awards)

UGC received regular updates on systemwide activities from UC Merced faculty serving on Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP), the University Committee on International Education (UCIE), the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE), the Committee for Library and Scholarly Communications (LASC), the Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC), and the Admissions and Financial Aid Subcommittee (AFAS).

Another important function of the Undergraduate Council is to review and comment on all issues relevant to undergraduate education and occasionally on issues with a more general nature. Topics discussed and/or acted upon by the Council in consultation with other Senate committees, School leads, and/or the Administration throughout the year have included:

### **AY 20-21 Catalog and CREs**

- The SOE, SNS, SSHA, and GE substantive changes to the Catalog were approved by UGC in March 2020.
- UGC approved 66 course request forms.

### **Campus and Systemwide Review Items**

UGC opined or acted on the following items:

- Put forth a proposal for establishing the Admissions and Financial Aid Subcommittee as a stand-alone committee: the Admissions and Financial Aid Committee. The proposal was approved at the May 7, 2020 Meeting of the Division.
- Proposed an interim policy for enrollment management of impacted programs (8/28).
- Approved a request from the Chemistry and Chemical Biology Department to Change its name to Chemistry (9/19).
- Endorsed proposed revisions to [Senate Bylaw II.IV.4.A](#) – LASC Membership (9/30)
- Offered comments on the proposal for a Master’s Degree in Cognitive Sciences (10/4)
- Opined on the proposed Charge for a Faculty Advisory Committee for IT (10/17)
- Opined on the Proposed structures for Phase 2 of the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability (11/1)
- Approved the Regents Scholars Selection Criteria and Scoring Rubric proposed by the Admissions and Financial Aid Subcommittee and the Office of Admissions (11/7)
- Endorsed a Resolution to Address Climate Action (12/2)
- Endorsed an amendment to UCM [Senate Regulation II.2.A](#)-Residency Requirement (12/9) – The amendment will be voted on at the Fall 2020 Meeting of the Division
- Approved the proposal for a B.S. in Civil Engineering, effective Fall 2021 (12/18)
- Responded to PROC’s request to consider allowing departments to undergo simultaneous reviews for closely aligned undergraduate and graduate programs, specifically, Economics and Management and Business Economics. (4/22)
- Offered comments on courses that would fulfill the American History and Institutions Requirement for the 21-22 Catalog (5/6)
- Approved a request from the registrar to add the transcript notation *Emergency Course Continuity Policy Enacted* (5/7)
- Relayed to UCOPE recommendations regarding the administration of the AWPE (5/29)
- Recommended to the Schools that departments/schools establish their own best approach regarding the adoption of a Reading/Review/Recitation Week at UC Merced (6/12)
- Put forth recommendations related to support for undocumented students (7/2)
- Collaborated with GC on the review and implementation of a proposal for auto-populating course offerings in Cat Courses. The goal is to ensure students have access to accurate information, and to reduce the time faculty must invest ensuring that policy information in their syllabuses is up to date. The policy contents were reviewed and revised by the relevant units prior to GC and UGC approvals. These contents will be made available by IT for all Fall 2020 courses.
- Commented on the SNS proposal for a Biology Pre-Major (5/8)
- Drafted the COVID-19 Emergency Course Continuity Policy (approved by DivCo 3/6/20), which provides instructional flexibility by allowing the transition to online modality without going through the standard approval process. All actions related to the ECC policy can be viewed [here](#).

- The UGC Chair shared with DivCo members ideas for Senate actions to address anti-Black racism and the mistreatment of the minoritized populations, which was in part prompted by the June 3 faculty and student Petition to Value Black Lives at UC Merced (6/15/20)
- The UGC Chair served on the Instructional Resiliency Initiative working group tasked with preparing UC Merced for modified instruction during the fall 2020 semester and beyond if needed.

### **Petitions**

- UGC considered and approved 28 requests from the Graduate Council to appoint graduate students as instructors of record for upper division undergraduate courses.
- UGC reviewed and provided recommendations on 2 Entry Level Writing Requirement petitions submitted by the Office of Undergraduate Education.
- UGC considered 2 petitions to waive the minimum degree requirement.

### **General Education Items**

UGC offered comments and recommendations on the following GE items:

- Commented on the Proposed Draft GE Program Bylaws
- Endorsed the GEEC requests a) that the UCEAP updated programs fulfill the GE language requirement and b) the co-curricular Intellectual Badges for “Shakespeare in Yosemite” (UCEAP and Shakespeare in Yosemite)
- Commented on the expanded GE Designation Descriptions
- Commented on revised descriptions of the GE Badges and Approaches to Knowledge

### **Systemwide Review Items**

UGC provided comments on the following systemwide items:

- Proposed Revised Presidential Policy on Copyright Ownership
- Opined on the White Paper Recognizing International Activities as Part of the Merit, Tenure, and Promotion Process at the University of California
- UC Washington Center Review
- BOARS Recommendation to Eliminate the ACT/SAT Essay Requirement
- Academic Council’s Standardized Testing Task Force (STTF)
- Proposed Presidential Policy Gender Recognition and Lived Name

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Sharping, Chair, School of Natural Sciences, UCEP representative

Matthew Hibbing, Vice Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, BOARS representative

Susan Amussen, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Rowena Gray, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Eva De Alba, School of Engineering

Michelle Leslie, School of Natural Sciences and UCIE Representative

Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, UCOPE Representative

Abbas Ghassemi, School of Engineering

Michael Beman, School of Natural Sciences

Chih-Chun Chien, School of Natural Sciences

Glynis Gawn, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts  
Angelo Kyrilov, School of Engineering  
David Kaminsky, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts  
Staff: Fatima Paul