

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL (UGC) ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

To the Merced Division of the Academic Senate:

The Undergraduate Council (UGC) and its standing subcommittees held a total of 10 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 Matt Hibbing
- University Committee on Preparatory Education: UGC member Eileen Camfield
- University Committee on Educational Policy: UGC Chair Matt Hibbing
- University Committee on International Education: UGC member Michelle Leslie
- Periodic Review and Oversight Committee Representative: UGC member Chih-Chun Chien
- CRFs Subcommittee: UGC members Jason Lee, Sachin Goyal, and Bin Liu.

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 21-22 Catalog. The names of the Awards recipients are available here:

https://senate.ucmerced.edu/senate_awards

UGC received regular updates on systemwide activities from UC Merced faculty serving on the Admissions and Financial Aid Committee (AFAC), the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP), the University Committee on International Education (UCIE), the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE), and the Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC).

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 21-22 Catalog and CREs

- The SOE, SNS, SSHA, and GE substantive changes to the Catalog were approved by UGC in April 2021.
- UGC reviewed and decided on 128 course proposals, both new courses and modified courses.

Campus and Systemwide Review Items

UGC opined or acted on the following items:

- Endorsed the Five-Year Planning Perspectives 2020-2025 (9/10).
- Endorsed proposed revisions to Systemwide Senate Regulation 630 (10/2).
- Endorsed proposed revisions to Systemwide Senate Regulation 544 (10/2).
- Approved the Chemistry and Chemical Biology department proposal to change its name to Chemistry and Biochemistry (10/16).
- Offered comments on the Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force Report (10/30).
- Endorsed the proposed revisions to the “Supplemental Questions for Online, Hybrid or Hyflex Course Approval Requests” (11/12).
- Endorsed the proposed revisions to the World Heritage Minor (11/13).
- Offered comments on Proposed Revised Presidential Policy on Copyright Ownership (11/26).
- Offered comments on the Academic Planning Targets Report (1/12).
- Opined on the UC Washington Center Review (1/29).
- Offered comments on Graduate Council’s proposal that outlined Policies and associated content for auto-populating every course in CatCourses (2/25).
- Opined on the White Paper Recognizing International Activities as Part of the Merit, Tenure, and Promotion Process at the University of California (2/28).
- Offered comments on the BOARS Recommendation to Eliminate the ACT/SAT Essay Requirement (3/9).
- Offered comments on the Academic Council’s Report of the Standardized Testing Task Force (STTF) (3/9).
- Approved the proposal for a minor in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (3/23).
- Approved the proposal from the Registrar’s Office for the addition of a check box to the course proposals in Curriculog that would allow faculty to indicate when a course title is variable (3/31).
- Endorsed the proposed amendments to Systemwide Senate Regulation 610 (3/31).
- Approved the proposal to change the name of the Literature and Languages (LAL) Department to Literature, Languages, and Cultures (LLC).
- Offered comments on the Draft Strategic Plan (2021-2031) (5/3).
- Endorsed the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Policy (5/12).
- Endorsed the proposal for a Writing Studies major after the Writing Studies faculty provided a response to UGC’s request for clarification, adequately addressing concerns (5/12).
- Provided recommendations for the proposed faculty Initiated Drop (5/17).
- Endorsed the proposal for a minor in Materials Science and Engineering after the proposers provided a response to UGC’s request for clarification, adequately addressing concerns (5/26).
- Approved eight ELWR student petitions submitted by students seeking exceptions to the Entry Level Writing Requirement (7/23).
- Offered comments on the UC-CCC transfer articulations for 2020-2021 (9/28).

Petitions

- UGC considered and approved 36 requests from the Graduate Council to appoint graduate students as instructors of record for upper division undergraduate courses.
- UGC reviewed and provided recommendations on 9 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 approved following GE items:

- GEEC's request to waive for Junior transfer students the General Education requirement that one Approaches to Knowledge A class, be from the Engineering category (5/17).
- GEEC's request to extend the interim reciprocity agreement currently in effect, to the start of AY22-23 (5/17).

Respectfully Submitted,

UGC Members:

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

Abbas Ghassemi, Vice Chair, School of Engineering, BOARS representative

Michael Beman, School of Natural Sciences (Fall 2020)

Eileen Camfield, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, UCOPE Representative

Chih-Chun Chien, School of Natural Sciences, PROC Representative

Arvind Gopinath, School of Engineering

Sachin Goyal, School of Engineering

Alejandro Gutierrez, School of Engineering

David Kaminsky, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts (Fall 2020)

Jason Lee, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Michelle Leslie, School of Natural Sciences and UCIE Representative

Holley Moyes, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts (Spring 2021)

Bin Liu, School of Natural Sciences

Siddaiah Yarra, School of Engineering (Spring 2021)

Staff:

Fatima Paul

Melanie Snyder