

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL (UGC)
ANNUAL REPORT
AY 2021-2022

To the Merced Division of the Academic Senate:

The Undergraduate Council (UGC) and its standing subcommittees held a total of 16 regularly scheduled meetings and conducted some business via email with respect to its duties as outlined in UC Merced's [Senate Bylaw II.IV.6](#). 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: UGC Chair Holley Moyes
- University Committee on Educational Policy: UGC Chair Holley Moyes
- University Committee on Preparatory Education: UGC member Eileen Camfield
- University Committee on International Education: UGC member Michelle Leslie
- Periodic Review and Oversight Committee Representative: UGC member Brian Utter
- CRFs Subcommittee: UGC members Jason Lee, Ryan Baxter, and Siddaiah Yarra
- Policy Subcommittee: UGC members Alejandro Gutierrez and Carolyn Jennings

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 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 CRFs

- The SOE, SNS, SSHA, and GE substantive changes to the Catalog were approved by UGC in April 2022.
- UGC approved 91 courses (new and revised) in Curriculog.
- UGC approved requests for a one-time exception for online modality for 137 courses.
- UGC approved 5 requests for an extension to the deadline to submit 13 course proposals.

Campus and Systemwide Review Items

UGC offered comments or acted on the following items:

- Proposed Revisions to SR 478 (IGETC) (10/11)*

- UCAF Recommendations for Departments Political Statements (1/14)*
- Proposed Revision to Senate Regulation 424 (2/1)*
- Community and Labor Center (CLC) Organized Research Unit at UC Merced (2/4)
- UC Merced Honors Program Proposal (2/18)
- Policy on the Use of the UC & UCM Names, Network, Electronic and Online Sites and Accounts, and Responses to Media Inquiries (3/3)*
- Proposal for a B.S. in Electrical Engineering (3/10)
- New Academic Activity Policy (3/16)
- Proposed Revisions to English Major and Minor (4/18)
- Presidential Policy on Affiliations with Certain Healthcare Organizations (4/29)*
- Revised Ernest & Julio School of Management Pre-proposal (5/2)
- Five-year Planning Perspectives (5/25)
- Greenhouse Core Facility (6/10)

*Systemwide review items

Other:

- Endorsed the Sample Degree Plans in the Catalog (9/24)
- Endorsed the Academic Dismissal of First-year Students (9/24)
- Endorsed the Permanent Approval to Fix the ELWR C- Repeat Loophole (9/24)
- Endorsed the ELWR Non-compliance Exception (8/18)
- Endorsed the Medical Accommodation for Instructors with Severely Immunocompromised Members of their Household (8/24)
- Transmitted a memo to the Schools re: Online Course Tracking (9/15)
- Endorsed the Honors at Graduation Awarding Practice (9/29)
- Offered comments on the Summer Block Schedule Revision proposal (9/29)
- Endorsed the Juneteenth Impact on Summer Session Calendar proposal (10/1)
- Endorsed the Report on Collaborative Writing Placement Pilot (Summer 2021) (11/10)
- Offered comments on Nonpharmaceutically Non-Compliant Students (12/2)
- Offered comments on the Principles for University of California Online Degree Programs (2/4)
- Endorsed the revised Supplemental Questionnaire, Course Modification Approval Rubric, and Course Modification Guidelines for new course proposals, and developed a tracking system to monitor the number of units acquired from online courses (2/18)
- Endorsed the USTU Course Oversight (3/10)
- Endorsed the revisions to the Procedures for Appointing a Graduate Student as Teaching Fellow for Upper Division Undergraduate Courses (3/28)
- Offered comments on the Registrar's proposal re: Updated Deadline to Submit Revisions to the Catalog (4/1)
- Endorsed the proposal for a formal consultation process for new or revised courses that may impact other departments (5/6)
- Proposed revisions to the Procedures and Policies for Approval of New Undergraduate Courses and Undergraduate Course Changes regarding distance education (6/8)
- Offered comments on four Extension Esport Courses (6/9)
- Transmitted a memo to PROC Co-chairs requesting the delay of the Merritt Writing Program (MWP) Program Review (6/27)
- Continued discussions on the Potential Policy Modifications for Students in their First Year (First-year Flex)

Petitions

- UGC considered and approved 8 requests from the Graduate Council to appoint graduate students as instructors of record for upper division undergraduate courses.

- UGC reviewed and provided recommendations on 25 Entry Level Writing Requirement petitions submitted by the Office of Undergraduate Education.
- UGC considered 3 petitions to waive the minimum degree requirement.

General Education Items

UGC approved the following GE items:

- Proposed Revisions to the General Education Program (2/1)

Respectfully Submitted:

UGC Members:

Holley Moyes, Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, UCEP Representative

Ryan Baxter, Vice Chair, School of Natural Sciences

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

Arvind Gopinath, School of Engineering

Alejandro Gutierrez, School of Engineering

Carolyn Jennings, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

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

Brian Utter, School of Natural Sciences, PROC Representative

Siddaiah Yarra, School of Engineering

Ex-Officio:

Sarah Frey, Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education

Charles Nies, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Staff:

Melanie Snyder, Senate Senior Analyst