

**Undergraduate Council
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, November 6, 2013**

I. Meeting

Pursuant to call, the Undergraduate Council (UGC) met at 10:00 am on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 in KL232, Chair Jay Sharping presiding.

II. Consent Calendar

- Agenda
- October 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes

UGC approved the consent calendar

III. Chair's Report

Chair Sharping welcomed members and guests and reported on the following:

- Visit by President Napolitano took place last week. The President seemed tuned in to the campus' challenges and handled the questions with tact.
- The General Education committee convened on 9/23 to discuss the General Education program review scheduled for AY13-14. This year, UGC and the Merced Senate will need to ponder on GenEd program review at a higher level. The approach will be different from the reviews of standard programs that are discipline-driven. A lot of work has been done on campus to create a GenEd model that was compelling and then to sustain that model. It is difficult for the institution to sustain its GenEd scheme partially because the motivation for it has been lost as the campus grew. We, as an institution, will need to redefine and clarify what we hope to accomplish and seek expert external input on how to accomplish it.
- DivCo convened yesterday. Discussion items included:
 - The CCGA process for review of PhD proposals.
 - Senate Administration Council on Assessment and Planning revised charge and membership – UGC chair reiterated that it would be useful to have a balanced representation from faculty and administration.
 - November 19 Meeting of the Division – Chair encouraged members to send discussion topics to the Senate Chair.
 - DivCo saw for the first time the draft MOU between UCM and UCOP. The MOU will be shared with UGC.

IV. Systemwide Committee Reports

A. BOARS – Vice Chair Vevea

- The consultation with BOARS Chair Johnson focused on the Moreno report. The report was drafted by a committee headed by former CA Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno in response to complaints among UCLA faculty that the campus

inadequately addressed incidents of racial discrimination. President Napolitano has requested that a Senate Administration working group be constituted to respond to the report.

- President Napolitano has visited 6 campuses thus far and most recently, has attended the November Academic Council meeting in Oakland.
- There is a push to add Computer Sciences courses to the a-g requirement by allowing computer science instruction in high schools to satisfy the math “c” or science “d” requirement for admission.
- Campuses will receive a request from BOARS related to the *Compare Favorably Reports and Analyses*.
- The UC new Transfer policy and undocumented students will be subjects of debate in Sacramento.
- Several faculty have voiced their concerns about the implementation of UC Care.
- Several campuses are worried about the application process this year.
- A Student Regent has proposed that a high school Title I status be added to the 14 Comprehensive Review factors. There was some general agreement that the current criteria identify high schools defined as disadvantaged and low income students. BOARS discussed UniversityLink, a UCSD program that guarantees admission for low-income transfer students at nine SD area community colleges who fulfill specific academic requirements.
- Chair Jacob is working on the BOARS report to the Regents to be released soon.
- Establishment of a single benchmark ELC for magnet programs in high schools – if students are in magnet programs within another high school, their local context is defined separately just for that magnet program instead of for the school. This seems to penalize students who declare being in a magnet program. There was some discussion of the pros and cons and a vote was taken indicating general support for a single benchmark in that context.
- BOARS voted in favor of a proposal to add a new criterion to the Guidelines for Implementation of University Policy on Undergraduate Admissions. The proposal will value Associate Degrees in the context of criterion #1 for eligibility for transfer admissions.
- The Open Access Policy will expand next year.

V. **UCEP – Chair Sharping**

Chair Labor briefed UCEP on the committee’s draft guidelines for systemwide course approvals to help determine whether a course should receive a systemwide designation. Systemwide course approval has been conflated with online courses, but actually applies to other courses as well. ILTI’s emphasis on campus approval should temporarily alleviate these concerns. UCEP hopes to forward a proposal to Council for consideration at its December meeting.

- Cross campus and systemwide course issues - Systemwide courses are approved by UCEP. UCEP discussed whether online courses that are offered across UC campuses should also be reviewed and approved by UCEP. The general consensus was to

approve systemwide courses but to not decide upon cross-campus courses because those have already been approved at the campus level.

- UCEP also discussed the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (SB 1440) that requires CSU and the CCCs to collaborate on establishing a streamlined transfer process from community colleges to four year universities so that students have a clear path to a bachelor's degree. The CSU Transfer Model Curricula and transfer AA and AS requirements differ from UC expectations. Students who have satisfied this transfer model process should be guaranteed to be able to find a 60-unit plan to degree. This is an interesting challenge because at the CC levels, there has been a need to create a lot of degree paths.
- Online Instruction Pilot Project Report. The report was received by UCEP with a decent amount of disappointment due to its size and lack of summary. It will be put in final form. OIPP conducted surveys of faculty and students who were involved with online courses. Results of those surveys were included in the report.

VI. Report from Professor Brown: Proposal for a Public Health Major

Professor Brown consulted with advisors in SSHA and SNS and a recommendation was made to submit a PH B.A. through SSHA and a PH B.S through SNS. The PH major is multidisciplinary and focuses on five areas:

- Epidemiology
- Statistics/Biostatistics
- Health Services Research/Health Administration
- Social and Behavioral Health
- Environmental Health

There are two courses of study for the major: a B.A. geared towards social sciences and a B.S. aimed at students with an interest in natural sciences who want to pursue careers in medical fields. The idea is to give students a cohesive program. The major makes linkages with other units and as best as possible, uses common types of courses to create an integrated program. This proposal is somewhat similar to the major offered at UCB. Students in this major will also have the possibility to study abroad. PH international programs are somewhat similar to the one being proposed at UCM.

Brown reported that PH is now a very popular major and has become more diverse with a variety of careers opportunities in health care (for ex: health communications)

PH BA and BS are different pedagogically. A BS degree offers the basic science courses which wouldn't be required for the BA. One major is focused on social sciences and the other is NS-oriented. The expectation is that students who choose to pursue the BS are in BIO. In terms of the administration of the major, PH currently resides in SSHA and at most institutions; PH resides in its own school (or department) so we will need to address the long term future of PH.

Negative impact of the program: the Human Biology major may be impacted by this major because some bio students may opt for the PH degree instead. At the same time, Professor Brown spoke to some SNS faculty who see this as a different degree and in a way, gives the students a choice.

Regarding the timeline, it is expected that the PH major will be reviewed by SSHA in December and will subsequently be submitted to the Senate for review and recommendation.

Director of International Affairs Sweeley suggested adding to the proposal some specifics about students' curricular paths in relation to EAP. She will consult with other UCs about their programs and their connections with EAP.

Chair Sharping encouraged members to email their comments or questions to Professor Brown.

VII. Report from VPDUE Whitt

- Academic Honesty Task Force
 - o The task force convened last month to discuss the charge to the group. Members discussed topics surrounding the ethical culture of integrity and student conduct. VPDUE Whitt and PRC Chair Camfield co-chair the task force and met to discuss specific steps regarding the group's task ahead and how to approach it within a specific timeline. Co-chairs decided to subscribe to the International Center for Academic Integrity which provides a wealth of resources including consultations, advice, and reports. VPDUE is collecting information from the Center and will consult with co-chair Camfield on how to use these resources.
- Undergraduate Writing Task Force
 - o In a memo to the Senate Chair and the Provost/EVC dated May 23, 2013, SACAP expressed concerns about the weaknesses in students' writing and composition skills that have emerged from annual assessment activities. In its memo, SACAP concurred with the PLO Review Committee's recommendation "that the campus would benefit from a broader discussion of undergraduate writing, including related goals, student needs and resources, that draws on the body of research addressing the development of writing/composition abilities. SACAP asks that the Senate consider facilitating such a discussion and, as appropriate, recommend action in this area." Provost Peterson subsequently sent a request to the VPDUE asking her to take the lead in constituting a writing task force in partnership with the Academic Senate and proceed with the recommendation of SACAP with the aim to clarify the goals for undergraduate (and graduate) writing, facilitate a robust discussion, and make recommendations on best approaches to achieve those goals.
 - o Intersecting with this, there are changes in our regional accreditors criteria for accreditation. WASC has identified five core competencies and we will be

expected to implement and assess these competencies in the undergraduate curriculum by the time our next WASC accreditation visit takes place so it is timely for the campus to have this conversation on writing skills.

Action: VPDUE will send recommendations for membership to a CoC.

VIII. CRF subcommittee Report

Action: NSED 100 and 120: Courses were approved pending inclusion of the GE principles that are addressed by courses. BIO 171 and CHEM 150 were approved as presented.

IX. American Studies Minor Program Review

Action: the SSHA request to postpone the review of the minor was unanimously approved. The minor will be reviewed in AY 14-15.

X. ILTI Program

Chair encouraged members to send him comments on this program.

XI. GE Subcommittee Report

The committee has an institutional membership and clarified its charge by focusing on curriculum and assessment planning. With regards to resources, the committee will provide comments and advice especially when it relates to infrastructure of programs and assessment.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to approve the revised charge as presented.

XII. Inclusion of the General Education Principles in CRF system

The GE committee worked on a census to identify the guiding principles that are met by GE courses. Committee collaborated with ALO Martin and the Registrar to add fields to Banner to include GE guiding principles. This change to the system will help the committee identify areas that may benefit from further definition of GE and will provide a reporting mechanism to share with the Office of the Registrar and campus constituents. The committee now has enrollment data that provides a portrait of GE in terms of course offerings. For example, 90% of courses identified themselves as meeting the Communications guiding principle but we are not really sure what that means. One thing that has been helpful to the GE committee is the emerging program review process of GE.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to approve the General Education committee recommendation that GenEd guiding principles be included as fields in the CRF system.

Action: Senate analyst will follow-up on implementation with SOE Assistant Dean Gavilan.

XIII. GE and 2020 Project

The 2020 Project focuses on multidisciplinary fields and projects how academic units can cooperate. This initiative presents an opportunity to discuss GE as part of the institutional vision of the campus. General Education strengthens disciplinary knowledge and provides a unique undergraduate experience. GE, like other fields, can suffer from the “everything and nothing” principle in the sense that it’s everything whereby everybody owns it but then no one in particular owns it. At this stage of our campus development, this could be an opportunity to think strategically about GE. The committee gathered some assessment materials that have been generated historically to review the aspirations of GE, and identify the barriers to multi-disciplinary undergraduate education.

People who could endorse the GE SFI proposal could include previous report writers, former GE committee members, Student Affairs. It was noted that it would be useful to distribute former Interim VPDUE Cameron’s proposal.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00noon.

Attest: Jay Sharping, Chair