Council on Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience (CTLSE)
Annual Report
2022-2023

To the Irvine Divisional Assembly:
The Council on Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience (CTLSE) respectfully submits its report of activities for the 2022-23 academic year.

I.   **COUNCIL OPERATIONS**
Mary McThomas, Associate Professor of Political Science, served as CTLSE Chair in 2022-23. The Council met seven times during the academic year. Attending regular CTLSE meetings were 12 appointed faculty members, the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning (VPTL) and Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE), the Vice Provost of Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate Division, the Librarians Association of the University of California, Irvine (LAUC-I) Representative, the Director of the Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation (DTEI), Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, two representatives from the Associated Graduate Students (AGS), and two representatives from the Associated Students of University of California, Irvine (ASUCI).

II. **COUNCIL ISSUES**

A. **Office of VPTL (OVPTL) Updates and Initiatives**
Chair McThomas, Vice Provost Dennin, and members discussed instructional issues, challenges, and concerns at each meeting.

B. **Student Government**
Representatives from ASUCI and AGS presented updates and concerns at each meeting.

C. **Proposed Amendment to Senate Regulation 630**
Meeting date: 10/3/2022
Memo date: 10/17/2022
Systemwide Senate Chair Susan Cochran distributed for review a proposed amendment to Senate Regulation 630 proposed by the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) and endorsed by the Academic Council last year. Members found the proposed amendments confusing and recommended that the language and requirements should be clarified; some members suggested that these amendments should be rejected.

D. **Student Housing**
Meeting Date: 11/7/2022
Guest: Lou Gill, Senior Director, Undergraduate Housing Residential Life, Student Housing
The Council was presented with general student housing updates, upcoming construction projects, and any issues and concerns. There were a total of 6,000 undergraduate spaces and 3,488 graduate spaces for current students, with some spaces available for COVID isolation. The annual rate increases this year

were 3.5% for undergraduates and 2.5% for graduate students. Rates were 39% below the market rate within one mile of campus.

ACC is opening Plaza Verde Phase II in Fall 2023. There will be 1,000 new spaces in a high-density space with fewer amenities to lower costs; rates should be 30% under the market rate. Phase 7 in Mesa Court will be designated for first-year students and will include 400 beds. Housing received $35 million in funds from UCOP to provide more affordable housing to students. Plans have been put forward and, upon approval, should open in Fall 2025. The Verano 8 graduate housing opening was a success. There are 1,100 beds in 420 units in six towers with quality amenities. Newer housing developments will be accessible, and it was reported that "universal design" is used and the Disability Services Center is consulted on planning.

E. **Presidential Policy on Vaccination Programs**
Meeting dates: 11/7/2022, 1/9/2023 (interim amendments)
Memo date: 1/11/23
Systemwide Senate Chair Susan Cochran distributed for review a draft presidential policy on vaccination programs. Council members thought the policy seemed clear and self-explanatory, but expressed concern that any mandatory COVID vaccination policy will need constant revisions based on fluctuations in cases and the development of effective treatment for the disease.

F. **Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Annual Report and Updates**
Meeting dates: 1/9/2023, 3/6/2023
Memo date: 1/23/2023
Guest: 3/6/2023 – Sharon Parks, Director, UROP

In 2022, CTLSE requested that UROP prepare an annual report and submit it to the Council for review. Specific data requested included: 1) A detailed budget for UROP and the allocations of funds from various sources -- donors, schools, central OVPTL funds, sponsored programs within the UROP umbrella, etc.; 2) The first report should include the previous five years of annual budgets for comparison; 3) Data on the number of students supported, award amounts, and how well the data demonstrate improvements in reaching underserved student populations; 4) Breakdowns by school to assure the program is not too heavily concentrated in a few areas so that students, regardless of their discipline, have access to these opportunities. UROP submitted its first annual report from 2021-22 to CTLSE in December 2022.

Members made a number of suggestions for the report and future annual reports, including: 1) provide a breakdown of awards by school and major, not just the "top ten" majors, as well as a breakdown of non-funded recognition awards by school and department;2) provide a breakdown of costs and revenue sources for all UROP programs; 3) describe how applications are used in terms of determining need (i.e., money necessary to conduct research vs. a proposal submitted largely for educational/training purposes). To these points, members noted that some students work in labs where the PI can fund their project, and expressed concern that some courses require that students submit a proposal

and questioned how common that practice may be, and within which schools and departments.

UROP should be conducting outreach to schools and departments that underutilize the program. These outreach efforts should be reflected in the report along with any measures of success. The Council emphasized that requested items #3 and #4 were not adequately addressed in the annual report. The Council would like the 2021-22 UROP annual report, and all future annual reports, to be revised to reflect these requests.

Concerning the issues the Council raised about UROP's annual report, members learned that the Faculty Advisory Board (FAB) chose to keep the current call for proposals the same for fall quarter, but to be more selective with spring proposals. Fall proposals were 93% funded. The FAB is looking at what may be a reasonable budget in a proposal, and students are asked to self-report if they are receiving additional funds elsewhere. The FAB is also looking at whether a project may be accomplished with less funding than is proposed. Members asked for clarification for why a large percentage of approved proposals were from Engineering. Members asked if there were any outreach efforts to other schools or to URM students. It was stated that there is currently outreach to the School of Business with a goal to outreach to all schools in the future. Engineering is being encouraged to not require the submission of a UROP proposal in its courses.

The UROP office is experiencing a staffing transition and is short on staff resources. The office is also migrating old data to a new system that will make it easier to do comparisons. Finally, UROP is looking at rethinking its funding model and budget due to recent budget cuts.

G. Office of Campus Social Work
Meeting date: 2/6/2023
Guest: Brenda Lapinid, Director, Office of Campus Social Work

The Council was presented with information regarding student mental health and wellness, specifically current case numbers and trends. The Office of Campus Social Work (OCSW) is staffed with clinical social workers, but their role is not clinical in nature. The number of staff has doubled in the last three years. Services are provided to students and affiliates and faculty and staff are consulted regarding students of concern.

Long term case management involves consultation, outreach, assessment, planning, advocacy, support, care coordination, and monitoring. Services are free, voluntary, and by appointment only. The OCSW areas of focus include basic needs, rapid rehousing, and graduate and family housing. Basic needs services include financial concerns and food insecurity, and emergency crisis response through a specific grant. Rapid rehousing services include homelessness and housing insecurity and basic needs sponsored by emergency housing. Graduate and family housing services include graduate students and undergraduates 26 years of age and older, and family members residing in graduate housing.

Other OCSW areas of focus are mental health and respondent services. Mental health services include post-psychiatric hospitalization follow up, collaboration with local OC hospitals and facilities, and collaboration with campus departments. Respondent services include working with faculty, staff, and students facing allegations of sexual misconduct and undergoing Title IX investigations. Staff and faculty can refer students to the OCSW through an online referral form or an email to the department. There is a new campus social worker focused on graduate students' issues and needs.

H. Future of the Teaching and Research Enterprise
Meeting date: 2/6/2023

The Council discussed post-strike challenges and possibilities for the future of the teaching and research enterprise at UCI and UC as a whole. Members considered various questions concerning instructional models, assessment, instructional technology, and instructional design support.
There is also a broader sense of exhaustion among faculty due to COVID and the strike. Members expressed concern regarding the management of labs with less support. It was suggested that some disciplines might look at eliminating discussion sections that may not be necessary in smaller courses.
Online/hybrid courses were discussed to alleviate teaching issues, but it was suggested that those types of courses not be encouraged simply due to lack of support. It was suggested that a Senate ad hoc committee be formed to assess issues with instruction and grading.

I. The Institute for Meaning Engagement Presentation
Meeting date: 3/6/2023
Guest: Dr. Pheather Harris, Program Director, UCI CAMP (California Alliance for Minority Participation)

The Council was presented with information regarding the Institute for Meaningful Engagement (TIME) grant. Dr. Harris explained the STEM degree completion disparity between minoritized and non-minoritized students. Minoritized students arrive to their STEM classrooms embedded in social systems that are inequitable, which influences the way that STEM curriculum is experienced. Not addressing social systems when designing curriculum, or exploring our social and cultural locations, can create exclusionary academic spaces. This reality gives way to microaggressions and stereotype threat. Faculty play a significant role in the development of positive (or negative) classroom cultures. Ultimately, the degree completion disparity between minoritized (MS) and non-minoritized students is a social justice issue.

Overarching goals of the program include exposing participants to the social and cultural locations of MS in STEM, laying a solid foundation of local and national data related to MS STEM persistence and retention to inform participant practices and behaviors in the classroom, modifying participant classroom practices and policies in response to the knowledge gained through TIME, and increasing student engagement and success. The Institute consists of nine classes, two campus events, one workshop facilitation, and classroom observations. Local and national partners include Santa Ana College, the UCI

Office of Inclusive Excellence, NSF Includes Network, Six STEM school deans, and the UCI Office of the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning.

J. Proposed Presidential Policy on Anti-Discrimination
Meeting date: 3/6/2023

Systemwide Senate Chair Susan Cochran distributed for review a proposed presidential policy on anti-discrimination. The proposed policy affirms the University's commitment to creating and maintaining a healthy working and learning environment that is inclusive and free of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. Chair McThomas and members discussed the issue and members had no objections to the proposed policy at this time.

K. Appendix II Revisions
Meeting date: 3/6/2023

Last year, CTLSE proposed revisions to Appendix II of the Manual of the Irvine Division of the Academic Senate, which describes the policies and procedures for grade appeals. The revisions eliminated language around the respondent bearing the burden of proof, as well as the formal hearing requirement for adjudicating grade appeal cases. Senate Chair Striedter asked the Council to review the latest version of Appendix II that reflects broad feedback and legal counsel at both the campus level and the Office of the President. The revised language should provide further clarity and consistency, while maintaining the intent of CTLSE's earlier revisions.

Chair McThomas and members discussed this issue and members voted unanimously to approve the revisions with minor clarifications.

L. Open Educational Resources
Meeting date: Virtual Discussion in December 2022
Memo date: 12/13/2022

The University of California convened a Task Force on Open Educational Resources (OER) and charged it with making recommendations to the Committee of Provosts on the structure of a funded UC-wide OER initiative to lower the cost of course materials for students. The Council submitted responses to the questions posed by the Task Force.

The Council's recommendations regarding incentives for faculty to adopt or create OER materials included providing stipends to faculty that have courses that would qualify and contributing those courses as models to a shared UCI Canvas library. Members also suggested that UCI should invest in additional Canvas plug ins to make processes easier. The most compelling incentives could be those implemented within the existing incentive structure, for example, as part of one's teaching, research/creative, or service activities. Incentives may also include credit and/or recognition toward merits and promotions. Members also made recommendations regarding what might be essential elements of an OER support infrastructure at the campus level such as a support infrastructure with "Professors of Practice," in which this effort could be seen as part of their research/creative activities. It could also be helpful to

provide guidance and support from campus or a third party, facilitating adoption and integration with our current LMS.

Lastly, members discussed opportunities and obstacles for OER adoption across disciplines and noted that as obstacles will vary across disciplines, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Lab and studio fees were mentioned as one obstacle. Members noted that department funds, faculty funds, or grants are helpful in reducing or eliminating costs to students, but the process can be onerous. Another big obstacle is that the academic book market is predicated on course sales to keep texts updated. If the University were to license the books comparable to the open journal publishing deals with publishers, it could be possible to find an OER solution to textbooks similar to the journal model that is emerging. This would require further planning and a cross-University investment. Some disciplines use cases, simulations, articles, and other high-quality materials that are not easily replicated. Members noted that good materials need to be regularly revised and improved and creating OER materials is an insufficient first step without an open-ended commitment to making updates and revisions. It would be important to identify existing successful models and learn from them. Members also thought it would be a shame to see a new "OER initiative" or costly "OER support infrastructure" undercut solutions that can be developed between UC, faculty, and publishers.

M. UCI Athletics and the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) Report
Meeting date: 5/1/2023
Guests: Shauhin Talesh, Professor, School of Law, and Faculty Athletic Representative; Ashley Letrich, Assistant Athletic Compliance Director; and Alexis McDonald, Assistant Athletic Director of Academic and Student Services

The Council received the annual Faculty Athletic Representative Report and general Athletics updates. A general summary of the academic status of athletes was given. The average GPA among student athletes was 3.17. Athletics provides many support services such as an academic center with three staff members that provide mental health resources, tutoring, proctoring of exams, etc. Instructors in general, can assist athletes by providing flexibility within attendance policies and asynchronous instruction due to their varied schedules. Specifically, there have been issues when a course is listed as asynchronous, but the final is given in person. It was recommended that there should be better communication and/or education for faculty regarding the proctoring of exams and/or accommodations for athletes due to their schedules.

N. Proposed Presidential Policy – Interim Clery Act Policy
Meeting date: 5/1/2023
Memo date: 5/2/2023

Systemwide Senate Chair Susan Cochran distributed for review prior to finalization the Interim Clery Act Policy – Campus Safety and Security Reporting as currently posted publicly. After the policy's interim issuance in July 2022, a systemwide working group was formed to gather feedback on the interim policy from key stakeholder groups and to begin the development of implementation guidance. In addition to feedback received from stakeholders, the working group will consider feedback collected through systemwide review.

The Council affirmed the comments from the Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom (CFW), specifically regarding the definition of a "hate crime." Members recommended that additional clarity be provided regarding reporting guidelines and roles. Members expressed concern regarding when specific alerts or announcements are disseminated to campus constituents versus when they are not. They noted that there seem to be more incidents in the Annual Security Report than the number of announcements throughout the year. It would be helpful to get clarification on what prompts an alert or incident announcement to campus.

III. NEW AND CONTINUING BUSINESS FOR AY 2023-2024
   A. UROP
   B. Use of LMS Data by the OVPTL
   C. Management of Student Fees
   D. Academic Integrity
   E. Canvas Issues
   F. COMPASS
   G. Celebration of Teaching Awards
   H. Student Housing
   I. Student Athletes
   J. Graduate Student Initiatives
   K. UCI-UCIPD Community Relations
   L. ADA Compliance and Accessibility
   M. Online Learning and Degree Programs
   N. Basic Needs Center
   O. The Teaching/Learning Analytical Group
   P. Impacts of New Labor Agreements on Teaching

IV. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
<u>Senate Members (voting)</u>
Mary McThomas, Social Sciences – Chair
Sergio Gago-Masague, ICS -- Vice Chair
Suzanne Bohlson, Biological Sciences
Philip Collins, Physical Sciences
Sule Guney Scurich, Social Ecology
Yuqing Guo, Health Sciences (Nursing)
Erika Hayasaki, Humanities
Sharon Koppman, Business
Han Li, Engineering
Kylie Peppler, Education
Fabiola Quintero-Rivera, Medicine (clinical)
Joel Veenstra, Arts

<u>Ex Officio Members (non-voting)</u>
Michael Dennin, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning
Gillian Hayes, Vice Provost for Graduate Education
Rameen Talesh, Associate Vice Chancellor – Student Life & Leadership

<u>Representatives (non-voting)</u>
Krystal Tribbett, LAUC-I

Frances Beresford, AGS
Zachary Griggy, ASUCI
Kritideepan Parida, AGS
Mariam Shenouda, ASUCI
Kasra Tavakoli, ASUCI

Consultants (non-voting)
Andrea Aebersold, Director, Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation
Daniel Mann, Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation

Council Analyst
Julie Kennedy