

Academic Senate

Spring 2020 Newsletter

July 8, 2020

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE CHAIR ELECT

Dear Colleagues:

The pandemic and the deep social issues we have faced over the last few months serve to remind us of the importance of our mutual support and care. There is every reason to believe that the 2020-21 academic year will further test our ingenuity and flexibility and our commitment to our shared purpose.

That said, we have proven ourselves to be both resilient and able. We have effectively taught and mentored our students, supported our colleagues, and made progress on our research goals in the context of severe logistical constraints. In addition to getting our own work done, many UC Irvine faculty have also played key roles in supporting our broader local and state communities.

While everything is subject to revision on new evidence, we currently expect to have most graduate students and some undergraduates on campus for Fall Quarter 2020. The majority of undergraduate instruction will continue to be remote for at least Fall. The thought is that we will aim to increase in-person learning for undergraduates as the year progresses and as circumstances allow. The details of what this might look like will depend on what happens with the pandemic and the advice of state and local health officials. What is clear at this point is that we will want to teach all of our courses, both graduate and undergraduate, so that we have the flexibility to go to fully remote if needed even mid-quarter. And we will want to make accommodations for students so that they can make suitable progress toward their degrees and other academic goals regardless of whether they can be on campus in person.

It is essential that we do not endanger the health of our students, faculty, or staff as we seek to provide the best possible learning environment for our students and to return to full research capacity. At every step we must depend on the best empirical data and advice we can find and on our sense of community, one where each person cares for and protects each other.

In addition to the various reports in the present newsletter, there are a few end-of-year items to report concerning the Academic Planning Group (APG), a cooperative enterprise between the Academic Senate and the administration. This academic year the APG convened task groups to consider (1) quarters vs. semesters, (2) self-supporting graduate professional degree programs (SSGPDPs), and (3) campus data-use policy. The APG has submitted reports on each of these topics to the Interim Provost. In brief, the report on quarters vs. semesters describes the virtues and vices of each

system for UC Irvine, suggests a range of possible hybrid systems, and recommends that the topic be revisited in a few years when we have a clear sense of where we stand after the pandemic. The report on self-supporting graduate professional degree programs makes a number of concrete proposals for how we might implement what we have learned regarding best practices for SSGDPs over the past few years and how best to track and evaluate their success. Finally, the report on campus data-use policy recommends a set of guiding principles for how we collect data, how we use it, how we maintain privacy, and how we get rid of data when we no longer need it. It also recommends establishing a campus-wide Data-Use Governing Committee to formulate and revise data-use policy as circumstances evolve, and it recommends assigning data stewards to care for particular collections of data on campus.

As a final note, while the last several weeks have reminded us that there remains much to do collectively to fulfill our commitment to the social contract, the Academic Senate celebrates the recent Supreme Court decision upholding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The Senate is committed to ensuring that undocumented UCI students, as well as undocumented UCI applicants, are provided with the necessary services and resources to thrive and stands ready to work with the University to ensure that DACA recipients receive permanent legal protections.

All best wishes,

Jeffrey A. Barrett
Chancellor's Professor
Academic Senate Chair Elect

UPDATES TO SENATE BUSINESS DUE TO COVID-19

The Irvine Divisional Senate has transitioned to remote meetings for all of its committees and councils, including the Cabinet and Assembly. Chair Steintrager has also stayed in close contact with campus administration to keep faculty apprised of the most current information on COVID-19.

On June 11, the Senate hosted a town hall-style webinar on return-to-campus issues. Chair Steintrager, Chancellor Gillman, Interim Provost Stern, and other campus leadership provided updates and fielded questions about fall quarter instruction, graduate student issues, the campus research ramp-up, and other concerns. Approximately 200 faculty attended this event.

SYSTEMWIDE BUSINESS

Irvine Review of Proposed Revisions to the APM, Bylaws, Regulations and Appendices

REVIEWED AT SENATE CABINET LEVEL:

- **Forwarded comments as part of the Systemwide Review of Proposed New Presidential Policy on Gender Recognition and Lived Name**
 - Reviewed at Council level by CFW, CEI, GC, & CEP
- **Forwarded comments as part of the Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Protection of Human Subjects in Research**
 - Reviewed at Council level by CORCL

REVIEWED AT SENATE CABINET LEVEL (continued):

- **Forwarded comments as part of the Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Travel Regulations**
 - Reviewed at Council level by CPB
- **Reviewed Proposed Revised Presidential Policy on Seismic Safety**
 - Reviewed at Council level by CFW
- **Reviewed Second Systemwide Review of Presidential Policy on Native American Cultural Affiliation and Repatriation**
 - Reviewed at Council level by CORCL & CEI

IRVINE DIVISION BUSINESS**Divisional Issues/Updates****Institutional Reference Check Policy**

The Cabinet was asked by Academic Personnel to review a revised institutional reference check policy for Senate ladder faculty and professors of teaching. After receiving answers to questions posed during the initial review, Cabinet members voted unanimously to endorse the policy while also suggesting it be extended to all purely administrative appointments as well.

Campus Budget In Light of COVID-19

Interim Provost Hal Stern visited with Cabinet to discuss the implications of COVID-19 on the campus budget. He shared that UCI's budget was largely in good shape for the time being and that the negative impacts are being felt most acutely by housing and the medical campus. However, there will be no merit increases for non-represented staff this year and no range adjustments for faculty. He also anticipates that the majority of undergraduate instruction this fall will be remote.

SSGPDP Three-Year Reviews

The Cabinet heard a presentation from Graduate Council Chair-Elect Arvind Rajaraman regarding the Graduate Council and Council on Planning and Budget Subcommittee's reviews of the Master in Human-Computer Interaction and Design (MHCID) and the Master of Legal and Forensic Psychology. As these were the first SSGPDP three-year reviews, the subcommittee shared lessons learned and suggested best practices for reviews going forward. The subcommittee will review seven SSGPDPs over the next two years.

School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Doctor of Pharmacy Proposals

The Cabinet and Assembly reviewed and approved the establishment of a School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences as well as a Doctor of Pharmacy that will be housed within the new School. Members expressed some concern about starting new programs in the current climate, but voted to approve both, noting that both proposals were well considered. These proposals are currently under consideration at the systemwide level.

Program in Public Health Proposals

The Cabinet and Assembly reviewed and approved several proposals from the Program in Public Health. These include transferring the Department of Epidemiology from the School of Medicine to the Program in Public Health; changing the name of the Department of Epidemiology to the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics; creating a new Department of Environmental and Occupational Health; and creating a new Department of Health, Society, and Behavior.

Review of Irvine Division Bylaws, Regulations and Appendices

APPROVED AT THE MAY 7, 2020 ASSEMBLY MEETING:

- Approved modifications to Bylaw 138. Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience, Council on (Cabinet – 4/21/20)

Bylaw 138. Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience, Council on

The modifications to Bylaw 138 reflect BUSHFA's request to expand its membership from 10 to 12 and to provide greater flexibility to allow representatives from the offices of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Vice Provost of Teaching and Learning to attend meetings.

- Approved the modifications to Regulation 635. The School of Social Ecology

Regulation 635. The School of Social Ecology

This is a conforming change reflecting the name change of the B.A. in Psychology & Social Behavior to a B.A. in Psychological Science.

Endowed Chairs

ENDORSED BY SENATE CABINET:

(Reviewed at the Council level by CPB)

- **Establishment of Ferdowsi Chair in Zoroastrian Studies** (Cabinet 6/2/20)
- **Establishment of Endowed Chair in Medical Humanities** (Cabinet 6/16/20)

Other

- **Approved the Proposed Policy on English Proficiency Certification for International Teaching Assistants** (Cabinet 4/7/20)
- **Approved request to discontinue the Healthcare Executive MBA Program** (Cabinet 4/21/20)
- **Approved the Recommendation to allow SSGPDP students to serve as Teaching Assistants** (Cabinet 4/21/20)
- **Approved implementation of a new Student Course Feedback Form** (Cabinet 5/5/20)
- **Forwarded comments on Proposed Revisions to Appendix I: Chapter 1. The Paul Merage School of Business** (Cabinet 5/5/20)
- **Forwarded comments on Five Year Planning Perspective Report** (Cabinet 5/19/20)
- **Forwarded comments on Proposed Institutional Reference Check Policy** (Cabinet 6/2/20)

- **Forwarded comments and suggestions regarding the proposed Plan to Enhance Senate Diversity** (Cabinet 6/16/20)
- **Approved Senate Conflict of Interest and Recusal Policy** (Cabinet 6/16/20)
- **Endorsed with comments a proposed Conflict of Interest in Appointment Committees Policy** (Cabinet 6/16/20)
- **Approved Name Change of the Undergraduate Major in Computer Game Science to Game Design & Interactive Media** (Cabinet 6/16/20)

ACTIVITIES BY SENATE COUNCILS

Council on Equity and Inclusion (CEI)

Campus COVID-19 Response

Throughout Spring quarter, the Council heard from guests who provided updates on the campus's efforts to respond to COVID-19, focusing on issues of access and inclusion for both undergraduate and graduate students. Guests included Senate Chair Jim Steintrager; Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning Michael Dennin; and Graduate Division's Senior Director of Admissions and Academic Affairs, Ruth Quinnan. All discussed the various ways the pandemic and remote instruction have impacted students – with regard to technology access, funding, and housing, among other issues – and how the campus responded to support students throughout the quarter. They also provided updates on planning for summer and fall instruction as those plans evolved. This fall, the Council will review the results of the UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) administered this spring, which included questions to students about their experience with remote instruction. The Council is particularly interested in the impact of remote learning on students who are first-generation, low-income and from other under-represented groups.

Review of the Equity Advisor Program

The Council completed interviews and information gathering as part of its year-long effort to review the Equity Advisor program. Members are currently reviewing a draft report that will be submitted to the Senate Chair and shared with other relevant stakeholders. In completing its review, Council members interviewed current and immediate past equity advisors, school deans and school personnel officers about their experiences with the program. However, they were unable to collect feedback from a core constituency: the faculty served by the program. The Council hopes to survey faculty early next academic year to assess their satisfaction with the program, focusing on junior and newly hired faculty in particular. A subcommittee will begin working on the survey this summer, with support from a consultant from the Office of Institutional Research.

Accolades

Congratulations to CEI member Sora Han, Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society (CLS), the School of Law, and the Department of African American Studies, and the Director of the Ph.D. Program in Culture and Theory. Professor Han is the 2020 recipient of the Frances M. Leslie DECADE Mentor Excellence Award. Among her many activities, in 2015-2016, she established a Race and Justice Studies emphasis in CLS as a means of supporting students with these research interests; in 2016-2017, she launched the emphasis and created a graduate diversity recruitment effort focused on California State University campuses.

Council on Educational Policy (CEP)

Policy Changes and Program Modifications

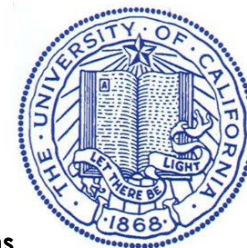
Due to current events and the transition to remote instruction, the Council has worked to make several temporary undergraduate policy changes and issue guidance for faculty. In March, the Senate approved [temporary modifications to its Pass/No Pass grading regulations for Spring Quarter](#) to provide greater flexibility for students. In May, CEP [voted to extend](#) these temporary adjustments through Summer Session. The full list of temporary policy changes and guidance for faculty can be found on the [Senate website](#).

In addition to these urgent policy changes, CEP reviewed the UCI Five Year Planning Perspective report, reviewed and approved undergraduate program modifications, and approved a proposal from faculty in the School of Social Ecology to extend access to UCI courses and degrees to incarcerated students.

Upcoming

CEP is considering potential changes to independent study courses, and expects to take this issue up in the fall.

Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom (CFW)



Faculty Welfare and Remote Instruction Issues and Concerns

At its meeting on April 14, 2020, the Council discussed faculty welfare and remote teaching in light of the ongoing global pandemic. Members generated a variety of observations and concerns that included the additional workload associated with remote teaching, the difficulty of assessing student needs during a remote course, access to the libraries, the logistics of offering practicums and internships, arts courses that require ensemble or live performance, and the potential need for graduate students to extend their time to degree.

Safeguarding Faculty During the Return to In-Person Activity, 2020-21

At its meeting on June 9, 2020, the Council continued discussing faculty welfare and remote teaching in light of the ongoing global pandemic. A key provision of recently announced plans for the resumption of in-person campus teaching is that programs must also continue to offer remote instruction to accommodate students who, for whatever reason, cannot attend physical classes. Yet members felt that campus leadership has not extended the same level of accommodation to faculty.

The Council voted unanimously in favor of a resolution stating that the campus shall continue accommodations for remote performance of any Academic Senate member duties, including instruction, research or creative activity, and service.

Upcoming

The Council will continue discussing faculty housing, faculty welfare and remote instruction issues and concerns, and UCI campus ADA and accessibility issues.

Council on Planning and Budget (CPB)

Department and Program Actions in the Program in Public Health

CPB discussed a set of proposals from the Program in Public Health for departmental realignment within the program. CPB found the budgetary considerations to be minimal and endorsed the requests. Minor concerns were raised regarding the practice of reverting vacated FTEs to the director and founding dean to reallocate based on unit needs and how clinically oriented faculty will transition to teaching with the proposed School of Public Health.

Upcoming

CPB will continue to consider principles to guide the campus response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Endowed Chairs

- Ferdowsi Presidential Chair in Zoroastrian Studies
- Endowed Chair in Medical Humanities

Council on Research, Computing, and Libraries (CORCL)

COVID-19

In collaboration with the Office of Information Technology (OIT) and the Office of the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning (OVPTL), the Council provided recommendations for remote exam proctoring options.

School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

CORCL reviewed the full proposal for the UCI School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences. Although the Council was supportive, members reiterated concerns about the campus's involvement with alternative and integrative medicine. The Council requested a statement from the School clarifying the measures the School will take to ensure an uncompromising adherence to established scientific facts, principles and methodology.

Program in Public Health Department Proposals

CORCL also reviewed several department and degree program proposals from the Program in Public Health. The Council found that the proposals were generally strong and timely considering the need for a greater societal focus on public health issues. The Council identified a few areas of concern including whether the program has the capacity to increase its graduate programs at the rate proposed while maintaining the quality of education and graduate admissions, and the inclusion of integrative health and complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) in the proposal. CORCL expressed strong opposition to the promotion of pseudoscience through the proposed Integrative Health and Wellness minor in the undergraduate curriculum. The program has since withdrawn the minor.

Reviews for ORU and Renewal of Campus Center

CORCL reviewed the renewal application for the Health Policy Research Institute. This is the ORU's 10-year review.

Council on Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience (CTLSE)

COVID-19

The Council would like to recognize the current unprecedented and challenging situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council will continue to serve as a Senate conduit on Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience. In particular, the Council will respond to the critical needs of students and faculty as the dynamics of teaching and learning at UCI are dramatically altered for the foreseeable future.

UCI Offices of Financial Aid and Financial Services

At its meeting on May 4, 2020, staff from the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships and UCI Financial Services shared information and updates with the Council.

Members expressed concern that both offices have legacy systems that are seriously outdated and are unable to interface with one another. The Council made recommendations to Cabinet that included investing in an updated enterprise system with flexibility across interfaces, batching options, and a method to communicate to students. The Council expressed serious concern that, by law, since the university is no longer able to withhold official transcripts for unpaid balances, it is forced to send these balances owed by students/alumni into collections in order to recover those amounts (usually fees and penalties). It was suggested that the Senate, in consultation with the administration, examine this issue in more detail.

ASUCI Free Testing Materials Initiative

At its meeting on June 1, 2020, Peter Trejo, ASUCI Academic Affairs Vice President, presented the Council with information about the ASUCI Free Testing Materials Initiative. ASUCI requested that CTLSE consider formally endorsing the proposal.

The Council voted unanimously to endorse the proposal for the costs of testing materials, specifically scantrons and bluebooks, to be covered by the university. As stated in the recent report from the Supplemental Costs Task Force, there are core components of a class that students should reasonably expect to be covered by their tuition. Members recognized that some schools and departments may not use these particular testing materials, so funds could be used for other testing materials needs.

Upcoming

The Council will continue discussing COMPASS and use of student data, revisions to Appendix II of the Senate Manual, remote instruction issues and concerns, and COVID-19 issues and concerns related to Student Affairs.

Graduate Council (GC)

Graduate Education

In light of COVID-19, Graduate Council considered the following measures in collaboration with the Graduate Division to mitigate the impact on graduate education and graduate students.

Graduate Curricular Planning Subcommittee to the COVID-19 Strategic Advisory Group to the Chancellor. Chair Seron and Chair Elect Rajaraman serve on the Subcommittee to develop principles for graduate education during COVID-19.

S/U Grading Option. The option was put in place for the Spring 2020 quarter to parallel the P/NP policy for undergraduates. For 2020-21, Graduate Council expects courses to be graded using the same processes and standards as in traditional years. However, faculty are encouraged to implement greater flexibility depending on context.

Graduate Admissions in Light of Disruptions to Applicants' Undergraduate Education. Graduate Council adopted UC Berkeley's position to take into account the significant disruptions of COVID-19 in the review of students' transcripts and other admissions materials from Spring 2020. Students will not be penalized for the adoption of P/NP and other grading options used during COVID-19.

SR 935 Final Examinations. SR 935 requires that final examinations on the dissertation be open to all members of the academic community. Graduate Council approved a temporary suspension of the requirement during COVID-19 to protect from "Zoom bombing" until all students are allowed to resume in-person final examinations on the dissertation.

Flexibility for Graduate Course Offerings. Graduate Council allows for flexibility for graduate course offerings to ease the burden on graduate programs during COVID-19. Faculty may need to offer a graduate course during a different quarter than it is originally scheduled and formally approved.

Graduate Students Serving as TA beyond Six Years. The systemwide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs requests that the period covering Winter 2020 through Spring 2021 be excluded from the 18 quarter/12 semester limits in APM 420-17 (for readers, TAships, and fellowships) due to the COVID-19 crisis. The request does not include an effort to change APM 420-17, but asks that the COVID-19 affected semesters/quarters not count towards normative time to degree and funding limits.

Time to Degree Extension. Graduate Council continues to support the current procedure of granting extensions to time to degree for doctoral students on a case-by-case basis, to maximize assistance to students who have the greatest need, given the severe constraints of funding and resources.

UCI Issue

2020-25 Five-Year Planning Perspectives. Graduate Council reviewed the campus Five-Year Planning Perspective report. The Council noted that programs in STEM fields are quickly growing in both state-supported and self-supporting programs; however, little growth is observed within Arts, Humanities, and other non-STEM fields.

Department Actions – Program in Public Health

- Transfer of the Department of Epidemiology from the School of Medicine to the Program in Public Health
- Name change of the Department of Epidemiology to the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Establishment of a new Department of Environmental and Occupational Health
- Establishment of a new Department of Health, Society, and Behavior

New Specialization

- Graduate Specialization in Ancient Iran and the Premodern Persianate World

Reopening of Admissions

- Doctor of Nursing Practice, Post-Master's Track

SSGPDP Year-Three Review

- Master of Human-Computer Interaction and Design
- Master of Legal and Forensic Psychology

Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools (CUARS)

Changing Reader Scoring Scale

The Council received a request from Director of Admissions Dale Leaman to change the scoring scale for applications from 1-3 to 1-5. The 1-3 scale replaced the 1-5 scale two years ago. Members had concerns about changing the scale back because the justification given for changing the scale previously was to give greater equity to applications from underrepresented minorities. Members requested data about underrepresented minorities from both scales, and ultimately Admissions elected to withdraw the request because the data did not support the change, in addition to upcoming changes to admissions due to COVID-19 and the Regents' decision to end standardized testing.

Admissions Changes

The Council has been engaged with the Office of Admissions regarding two significant changes in admissions. First, in light of the COVID-19 emergency, the University of California system will not require test scores for admission and will accommodate pass/fail course grades. CUARS has been in ongoing discussions with Admissions about how to best evaluate applications fairly and equitably for the fall admissions cycle. Second, the Regents have decided to eliminate standardized testing for admissions moving forward. CUARS is working with Admissions to make permanent changes to how applications are read and evaluated without test scores.

Upcoming

CUARS Chair Susana Cohen-Cory will be transitioning out of the Chair role, and we thank her for her service. Sergio Gago-Masague will assume the Chair role this fall. Additionally, over the summer, CUARS and Senate leadership will meet with leadership from the Office of Admissions regarding CUARS engagement with admissions and the upcoming changes.

The Academic Senate Newsletter is published quarterly during the academic year by the UCI Academic Senate to inform UCI faculty about the activities of the Senate. Your comments are welcome: senate@uci.edu

Jeffrey Barrett, 2019-2020 Chair Elect
Christine Aguilar, Editor

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