2021-22 Academic Planning Group (APG)

The APG is a joint Academic Senate-Administration body that advises the provost on academic planning, resource allocation, and other strategic priorities. APG’s deliberations demonstrate UCI's ongoing commitment to shared governance. The group's recommendations inform the provost's considerations regarding issues of importance to the campus.

The APG invites subject matter experts to join conversations and convenes ad hoc workgroups on topics of particular interest to the provost. When workgroups are formed, the APG provides them with specific charges and asks for focused recommendations. Workgroups’ reports are considered by the APG and ultimately presented to the provost.

This year’s workgroups and their charges follow below.

Reimagining Graduate Education

The charge of this second APG workgroup on this topic is to use the criteria and data elements determined by the first APG Workgroup on Reimagining Graduate Education to assess how strategic investments might be made in Ph.D. and MFA programs. The Graduate Division, the Academic Senate, and the Office of Academic Planning & Institutional Research will collect data from centrally-held sources, data held locally by the programs/units, and school comments on the local unit data. Using these collected data, the second workgroup will then apply the criteria to all Ph.D. and MFA programs and assess the results. Based on this analysis and attendant assessment, the second workgroup will make recommendations regarding student funding principles, campus support models, and potential strategic investment. These recommendations should allow for variation in the support—both human and financial resources—that different programs with different disciplinary norms may require. The recommendations should be made with an eye to furthering the strategic goals of the campus.

Addressing Undergraduate Outcome Gaps at UCI

Outcome (or achievement) gaps exist at UCI for several groups of undergraduates, including first-generation college students, students from low socioeconomic backgrounds, students with disabilities, and students from diverse racial and ethnic groups. Moreover, the University of California has long recognized that African American, American Indian, and Hispanic/Latinx students lag behind Asian/Pacific Islander and White students in terms of graduation rates. The UC has committed itself to eliminating this graduation gap by 2030. Pamela Brown, UC’s Vice President for Institutional Research and Academic Planning, said in 2019, “…we are trying to achieve equity among all our students by eliminating persistent gaps in retention and time to degree that affect our low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students.” Additionally, the California state legislature has suggested that any increase in state funding for residents is likely to be tied to a reduction in outcome gaps. This APG workgroup will examine available data on undergraduate outcome gaps at UCI and discuss how existing gaps may be reduced. Among the group’s specific aims are to evaluate UCI’s ongoing efforts to minimize outcome
gaps, consider what additional measures could be pursued, and develop recommendations for both faculty and administrators to help address this complex issue.

**Imagining Research and Creative Activity at UCI in a Post COVID-19 World**

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated trends that were already underway that affect many aspects of university life: remote learning and remote work; the structure of global scientific research; disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaborations; and data sharing and scientific ownership. As a public research university, UCI can play a pivotal role in shaping the post COVID-19 world by doing what we do best: research, education, translational science, creative expression, outreach, and public service. In fact, there is considerable room for creative, disciplinary, multidisciplinary, and convergent thinking that advances novel research ideas and forms of creative expression that may lead to historic breakthroughs. This APG workgroup will consider the novel challenges and opportunities for STEM and non-STEM research and creative activity in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and engage in an open-ended, forward-thinking, and creative exploration to imagine possible futures for our university as our campus, region, state, nation and the world transition to a post-pandemic reality. Topics to be considered include infrastructure, innovative solutions (locally and globally), social issues, and public engagement.