Dear Fellow UCI Senate Members,

As we approach the winter break, I want to update you on important issues and ongoing discussions and announce additional avenues for the senate to solicit your input.

**UC Advocacy:** I communicated in an earlier letter that the UC Senate strongly encourages advocacy efforts. We haven’t given up on the idea of encouraging the state to fulfill its obligations in relation to the Master Plan. The Academic Council has developed an advocacy plan that calls on the Chairs of the Academic Senate on each campus to identify faculty members with personal contacts with state legislators or other policy makers in order to make better use of our faculty resources. If you have such a contact, please contact me Chair@uci.edu so we can discuss and develop UC advocacy efforts. The UC and UCI administrations have also developed mechanisms to encourage faculty advocacy. You can find information about how to contact your state representatives, along with information on the UC advocacy efforts at: http://www.ucforcalifornia.org/ucirvine/home/. The campus has sponsored budget letter-writing sessions for students, faculty, staff and alumni, and will continue these efforts next quarter. The Senate strongly encourages faculty participation in these or your own advocacy efforts.

**Campus protests:** The UC Academic Council has commented in a letter to the UC community on the recent student reaction to the Regent’s decision to raise student fees by approximately 30%. We empathize with students’ situation, while we urge moderation in protest and insist that the uses of force by police be subject to inquiry and review. In addition we call for the campus community to work together towards advocating for restoring funding to the University of California. The Council letter is posted at: http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/reports/.

**The Commission on the Future of UC:** The commission has appointed its work group members, and the groups are at work on their tasks. The UCI work group members have agreed to coordinate their efforts by agreeing to two commitments beyond their original work group assignments: 1. meeting together to discuss issue overlaps and common themes, and 2. periodically meeting with and reporting to the relevant UCI councils. In addition, each of the UCI faculty representatives has agreed to take email suggestions and ideas from UCI faculty. You may contribute to these discussions in several ways: send your ideas and suggestions to the various workgroups by contacting the relevant UCI work group member (see e-mails below), post your comments on the commission’s website http://ucfuture.universityofcalifornia.edu/feedback.html, the UCI Chancellor’s website http://www.ucforcalifornia.org/ucirvine/home/, and/or the UC President’s website at http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/president/welcome.html.
Work group, UCI representative, E-mail, Relevant Council

Size and Shape, Ken Janda, kcjanda@uci.edu, Cabinet

Funding, Peter Krapp, krapp@uci.edu, Council on Planning and Budget

Research, John Crawford, john.crawford@uci.edu, Council on Research, Computing and Libraries

Education and Curriculum, Judy Stepan-Norris, jstepann@uci.edu, Council on Educational Policy

Access and Affordability, TBA, CUARS and BUSHFA

**Budget issues** are of continuing concern. The state has indicated that it intends to restore the one-time cuts to last year’s budget, but with the current size of the state’s shortfall and the possibility that the state projections will not be met, it is unclear whether or not it will be able to follow through with this commitment. You can find the latest budget information at [http://budget.ucop.edu/pres/2010-11/F1-BudgetUpdate-Nov09.pdf](http://budget.ucop.edu/pres/2010-11/F1-BudgetUpdate-Nov09.pdf).

**Retirement Plan**: The UC-wide Post-Employment Benefits Work Group made an excellent presentation to UCI faculty on pension benefits on November 20. You can access the power point presentation at the UCI Human Resources website: [http://cast.nacs.uci.edu/tltc/Production/BenefitsReview/benefitsreview_staff.html](http://cast.nacs.uci.edu/tltc/Production/BenefitsReview/benefitsreview_staff.html).

**UC News**: You can keep up to date on UC news by reading the Senate Source at [http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/news/source/](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/news/source/).

We have progressed in formalizing the structure for the “**Voice of the Senate Community**.” This structure ([see organizational chart here](#)) allows for senate faculty input on important senate issues through the faculty chairs and senate representatives in each school. The senate cabinet will request school-level discussions to collect input around important issues. Please participate by providing your ideas, concerns and suggestions on these issues through this mechanism when called to do so. In this way, the senate cabinet will know the positions and concerns of each school when making its deliberations.

I wish you all a happy holiday season, and all the best in the new year.

Sincerely,

Judy Stepan-Norris

Academic Senate Chair