DIVISIONAL SENATE ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, June 7, 2012, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Academic Senate Conference Room, 338 Aldrich Hall

1. MEETING:
A regular meeting of the Irvine Divisional Senate Assembly was called to order by Chair Martens at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 7, 2012, at the Academic Senate Conference Room, 338 Aldrich Hall. Members of the Administrative staff and members of the University community were present.

2. MINUTES:
Chair Martens noted that any corrections to the minutes may be sent to the Senate office for amendment.

Action: The minutes of March 15 were approved.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR CRAIG MARTENS: None

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHANCELLOR MICHAEL V. DRAKE:

Times Higher Education World Rankings, Top 100 Universities Under 50

Times Higher Education is a British publication that looked at 400 universities around the world and ranked the top 100 universities less than 50 years old. The primary factor used for weighting the schools was the impact that the institution and its faculty have had on education and the world in which they live. This includes publications, citations, election to national academies, and graduate degrees. The University of California, Irvine ranked 4th in the world and 1st in the U.S.

Budget
The state legislature must prepare the budget by June 15 and ratify the budget by June 30. A proposal for a $125 million fee buyout to postpone additional fee increases is being considered. The Regents will determine by November’s provisional budget if a 6% fee increase to cover the shortfall will be needed. If the legislature approves the buyout it would increase UC Irvine funding by $125 million, effectively making the fee increase $0. This was done many times in the early part of the last decade.

If the governor’s education initiative fails, there will be a $250 million trigger cut and the fee buyout will not take place. This would mean a $40 million cut for UC Irvine (nearly $400 systemwide). There will be a concerted effort over the next few weeks to have the legislative language include a guarantee that the approved initiatives would earmark all monies for UC and the fee buyout.

Campus Updates
In 2012-13, UCI had a record year with nearly 70,000 applications for enrollment. It was also a record high in selectivity with approximately 20,000 offers made to freshman. The average GPA for incoming freshman is 4.05, up from the 3.99 of the previous year. The number of African American applicants increased from 93 two years ago to 187. Non-resident students have increased from 186 in 2010 to 812 in 2012.

The average debt of students has decreased. In 2002 the number of students with no debt was 40%. In 2010 it was 53%. Systemwide, the average debt for students is about $10,000 below the national median.

The UC Irvine men’s volleyball team won the NCAA championship. Women’s water polo won its fourth straight conference championship. Both men and women soccer teams were highly ranked at year’s end. Charles Jock, our 800M runner, was the leading runner in the U.S. two weeks ago and is favored to win the NCAA 800M championship.

Foundation
The UC Irvine Foundation is made up of 45 trustees that are all volunteers who elect their own leadership. Collectively they have given the campus $170 million since 2005. Dr. Hazem Chehabi
was elected as chair last summer. He also served as the Syrian Consul General for 18 years. This role involved acting as a conduit between Syria and the Syrian American community dealing with things such as marriage licenses and visas. Due to the current situation in Syria, Dr. Chehabi resigned from his position as Consul General essentially breaking ties with his home country and making it impossible for him and his family to return in the foreseeable future. His powerful statement can be found online in interviews he conducted for NPR and BBC.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS: None

6. SPECIAL ORDERS – CONSENT CALENDAR
   In Memoriam
   Stanley van den Noort (1930-2009)
   Alice Laborde (1922-2010)
   Don R. Miller (1925-2010)
   James Richard Arvo (1956-2011)
   Walter Monroe Fitch (1929-2011)
   Thomas Sizgorich (1970-2011)
   Julius Margolis (1920-2012)
   Frank Sherwood Rowland (1927-2012)
   Jerome S. Tobis, M.D. (1915-2012)

   The consent calendar was accepted.

7. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

8. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

   Proposed Revisions of Irvine Bylaw 85 and 35
   *Issue:* The Academic Senate has reviewed a proposal from the Council on Educational Policy to change its Bylaws governing the subcommittees of CEP. The changes relate to the implementation of a new subcommittee of CEP (the Assessment Committee), a review of the General Education and CEP procedures for its three subcommittees, and conforming changes to address problems of inconsistency. The revisions will address issues of voting assigned to subcommittee chairs, and the division of labor between subcommittees.

   *Discussion:*
   The Council on Educational Policy (CEP) has three major subcommittees: Policy, Committee of Courses, and the Assessment Committee. The committees are structured differently from how they are written in the bylaws. CEP recommends the proposed changes to Bylaw 85 giving all committees a chair and a vice chair to ensure continuity within the committee and that each of these positions be a voting member of CEP so that there is active communication between each subcommittee and CEP.

   The proposed changes to Bylaw 35 are to make the bylaw more in line with other UC campuses and to have all duties regarding changes to programs and courses handled by one committee, the Committee on Courses.

   Assembly members were in favor of the proposed changes. One suggestion was made for Bylaw 85, that the word “of” be added in Section A under Membership to the following sentence:

   …the Chairs and Chairs-Elect of the SCOC (Undergraduate Subcommittee on Courses and Continuing, Part-Time, and Summer Session Education), and of the CEP Assessment Committee.
Action: The Assembly voted to approve the proposed revisions as amended [23 endorsed, 1 opposed, 0 abstention].

9. PETITIONS OF STUDENTS: None

10 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

11. REPORTS OR COMMENTS ON UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY WELFARE: None

12. NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed Revisions of Irvine Bylaw 35 and 158

Issue: The Academic Senate has reviewed a proposal from Professor Scott Jordan to modify Irvine Bylaws 35 and 158. If adopted, the legislation would modify legislation that determines how information is delivered for discussions at Assembly meetings. The Cabinet unanimously rejected the proposal as the current Systemwide and Divisional Bylaws adequately address the concerns raised. Moreover, CRJ found the rationale for the proposal had some inconsistencies, and that it failed to provide adequate reason to modify the current legislation. Professor Jordan requested the proposal be presented to the Assembly.

Discussion:
Assembly member Scott Jordan proposed changes to Irvine Bylaws 35 and 158. His rationale for the legislation change was his concern regarding transparency within the Senate and the committee reporting process. Assembly Member Jordan would like to see a more detailed reporting process inclusive of committee votes, minority opinions, analysis and appraisal, and minutes.

The Council on Rules and Jurisdiction found that the proposed legislative changes would not be inconsistent with other rules of the Senate but found some inconsistency among the statements made in the rationale for the proposal.

The Senate Cabinet discussed the legislation but did not agree with the proposed changes as all committee reports are posted before a meeting, the committee reports are always shared upon request, and approved committee minutes are currently posted online unless considered confidential. The Cabinet also noted that the proposed change in the reporting process might be considered as a change in procedure rather than require legislation.

One Assembly member noted that a potential benefit to adopting the proposed legislative changes was that detailed reports would be accessible and all information would be readily available to assembly members. Several Assembly members felt that the proposed legislated change would require additional reports from the committees and create an increase in workload to committees that are already overburdened. Also, mandated detailed reports might inhibit faculty from expressing their opinions thereby censoring faculty discussion that would be a disadvantage to the process.

Action: The Assembly did not vote due to loss of quorum.

13. ROLL CALL: Attendance Sheet

14. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Charlene Mandau
Academic Senate, Irvine Division
Attest: Mary Gilly, Chair-Elect