DIVISIONAL SENATE ASSEMBLY
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, March 15, 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, March 15, 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 December 15 were approved.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR CRAIG MARTENS:
Sherry Rowland
Professor Sherry Rowland, founding chair of the Department of Chemistry and Nobel Prize recipient for chemistry, passed away at 84 years old.

Memorial to Regents
A notification to all faculty was sent regarding an upcoming ballot to send a Memorial to the Regents, asking them to endorse one or more specific ballot measures or legislative initiatives that would increase state revenues and/or increase funding for the University. The Senate will conduct its voting March 26 – April 13, 2012.

Senate Elections
Chair Martens noted that March 15 was the last day to vote for the Senate elections and requested that if any of the faculty members had not yet voted to do so after the meeting.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHANCELLOR MICHAEL V. DRAKE:
The Chancellor discussed a recent meeting of a panel led by the American Council of Education. The main discussion was educational attainment, and to examine the value of having a degree or certificate in today’s job market. The discussion examined rates for graduation and attrition. The difference between graduation rates of 100% and the 50-60% that is seen at most schools was reviewed. It was noted that the data collected to monitor the cohort of students that enter an institution and the cohort that graduate in 2- 4 or 4- 6 years does not effectively monitor transfer students.

Students who transfer from one four-year institution to another are not tracked. In the six-year graduation data, 45% of the people who enter have fallen out of the cohort being followed. That number translates to approximately 2.3 million students who are not being tracked. Many of those students graduate but graduate from different institutions than where they started. Graduation rates for some schools may be 15-20% higher than what is actually reported. Effective ways to track students and to accurately determine graduation rates as well as to improve the university’s support of matriculated students to improve graduation rates will be emphasized in the future.

Information technology and new methods for teaching students are becoming more important. Online education is starting to play a larger role. Courses are taught online, syllabi posted online, and degree programs are now offered online. 12% of college students are now enrolled in online schools. Another example of online education is the Kahn Academy, covered by 60 Minutes. Kahn Academy is a free online tutoring website created by Sal Kahn. It started as homework modules that he would send electronically to his niece out of state. She began sharing it with her friends via Facebook and
Twitter and it grew in popularity. There are now 4.3 million people using the tutorials. This has created a conversation about the concept of flipping the classroom so that classroom lectures become homework and homework is done in the class where a teacher can assist.

UC system: It was noted that Chancellor Robert Birgeneau of UC Berkeley has recently announced that he will step down as Chancellor. UC San Francisco has proposed to establish its own local governing board. As a result of re-benching, UC San Francisco believes that their portion of the budget that goes towards UCOP is disproportionality large given that UCOP’s main focus is undergraduate education. UCSF is proposing more autonomy from the UC system, but continuing its affiliation similar to the UC Hastings School of Law in San Francisco.

The governor’s budget is a major topic in Sacramento. The governor has proposed a budget that would direct approximately $225 million more towards UC than we received last year if his ballot measure is passed. If this happens, the UC would receive a portion of the money that was cut in the past. If this measure does not pass, there will be an additional cut of $200 million.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS: None

6. SPECIAL ORDERS – CONSENT CALENDAR
   In Memoriam
   Meinhard E. Mayer (1929–2011)

7. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

8. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Proposal to Establish a UCI School of Education

Issue: The Academic Senate has completed its review of a proposal from the Department of Education to establish a new UCI School of Education. The proposal was originally presented to the Senate in 2009. Since then, the Department has continued to develop its faculty, academic programs, and facilities. There are no additional resource requests associated with the proposed action. The Department has functioned as a School in the past few years so effectively that the proposal was initially submitted as a name change. However, the Department was advised to revise the proposal to comply with the procedures required for establishment of a new School. Following the divisional review process, the proposal will require review and approval by the Systemwide Senate and the Regents of the UC.

Discussion:
Senate Chair Craig Martens presented an overview of the proposal. The previous proposal submitted 2009 for Senate review was not endorsed. The main concerns at the time of the review were the recent establishment of the Ph.D. program, and funding requested to support growth plans to add 11 FTE, proposed instructional based revenue, and the economic climate at the time. The Department of Education was encouraged to resubmit their proposal at a later time once some of the issues had been addressed.

The new proposal was reviewed and received unanimous support from the Council on Planning and Budget, Graduate Council, the Council on Educational Policy, and the Council on Research and Computing and Libraries. The issues that stemmed from the first proposal have been resolved: the first cohort of Ph.D. students have completed the program, the Department of Education is currently operating as a school, and does not require additional funding or FTE’s. Moreover, the Department is the highest ranked unit of education that is not a school, and with a School designation will be able to improve its opportunities for extramural funding. It was further noted that although the Department of Education would be small compared to the other schools on campus, it is about the same size as
other schools of education and will be structured similar to the UCI Business and Law schools as a single department with a Dean.

Action: The Assembly voted to approve the Proposal to Establish a UCI School of Education [23 endorsed, 2 opposed, 1 abstention]. The proposal will now move forward to be reviewed at the systemwide level.

9. PETITIONS OF STUDENTS: None

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

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

12. NEW BUSINESS: None

13. ROLL CALL: Attendance Sheet

14. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Charlene Mandau

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