DIVISIONAL SENATE ASSEMBLY
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, May 5, 2011, 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 Barbour at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, 2011, 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 Barbour noted that any corrections to the minutes may be sent to the Senate office for amendment.
Action: The minutes of March 17 were approved.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR ALAN BARBOUR:
- Chair Barbour welcomed Chris Dunckle, President of the Associated Graduate Students, to the meeting.
- The provisional list of cuts to line items or earmarked programs supported by the Office of the President (OP) has been released. The reductions total $29M-$30M. Some of the unfunded mandates that were supported by OP may be passed down to the campuses to fund at their discretion.
- The Rebenching proposal recommends to keep the funds generated by the campuses at the campus’ level and to impose a flat tax based on revenues of each campus to fund the activities of OP. Rebenching could be divisive regarding the issue of greater weighting of graduate students over undergraduate students which advantages the older campuses (UC Berkeley and UCLA).
- The UC Online Education pilot program selected 4 UCI online courses from among 29 UC pilot courses to be distributed among the 9 campuses. The initiative will be funded with $750,000 in grants from the Gates and Hewlett foundations and with a loan of $7M borrowed by the UC to help pay the cost of developing the courses. Online education has been touted as a means to generate new revenues and expand the numbers of students that UC serves. However, questions related to the oversight and evaluation of the program remain as key issues as well as the financial feasibility of paying back the loan.
- Evaluation of the quality of schools/departments is being discussed by the Budget Work Group, the Academic Planning Group, and the Dean’s Councils. As there will be another opportunity for schools to update their reports, faculty were encouraged to provide input. The evaluation is being based on a number of factors including the Senate program reviews and NRC rankings.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHANCELLOR MICHAEL DRAKE:
- Chancellor Drake informed the Assembly that the outcome of the Governor’s budget reduction is unknown at this time. Consequences of a significant budget reduction will have long-term detriment to the UC system as it already struggles with maintaining its mission of excellence, access, and affordability during this difficult economic time. As the Regents do not wish to compromise excellence and access, affordability for eligible California students is becoming increasingly difficult to preserve.
- Faculty merits and salary increases for non-represented staff remain in the current budget plan but furloughs and other salary reductions are not in consideration at this time.
- The Dalai Lama visited the campus on May 4 before a sold-out audience at the Bren Events Center. The visit marked the 7th anniversary of UCI’s XIV Dalai Lama Endowed Scholarship.
- The WASC reaccreditation process is underway for the campus’ review in 2012. At a recent site visit, the review chair found the UCI campus to be engaged with an energetic spirit.
- Despite budgetary constraints, student achievements continue to be outstanding including in athletics.
- The American Bar Association visited the School of Law as part of the school’s provisional accreditation process. The site visit generated a positive report and recommendations in favor of provisional accreditation.
- The campus received nearly 64,000 applications from new undergraduates for the coming academic year. Based on new freshmen returns, underrepresented minority enrollments are predicted to increase by 60% over last year based on statements of intent to register. African-Americans and Chicano/Latino enrollments are set to increase by 49% and 68% respectively. A large increase in non-resident enrollment is also expected at the freshman level with the number of statements of intent to register rising from 180 students to 416 students. As a result, the campus has become more attractive to students than ever.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS:
Graduate Division Dean Frances Leslie and Graduate Council Chair Ruth Mulnard presented on the current state of graduate education at UCI. Their presentations have been posted on the Senate website.

6. SPECIAL ORDERS – CONSENT CALENDAR

7. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

8. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

IR 386- Credit Hour Unit Limit (undergraduate)

Issue: The Council on Educational Policy (CEP) was asked to formulate a policy limiting the number of credit hours UCI undergraduate students are able to take to graduate. CEP reviewed the policies of other UC campuses and concluded that a limit of 216 hours is a reasonable proposal. CEP recommends that the policy be added to the Regulations of the Irvine Division effective Fall 2011.

Discussion: The proposed policy recommends a limit of 216 credit hour units to graduate (180 credit hour units are required for graduation). It includes exceptions for transfer students, double majors, and students in Engineering. It also allows Deans to make exceptions as needed. It was observed that certain majors in Arts tend to require high credit hours. However, the school unit does not find the proposal to be problematic. The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction reviewed the legislation, and found the proposed revision in compliance with the Senate Code.

A member of CRJ expressed concern about the language of the regulation. The use of “permitted” and “cannot” may be problematic in the implementation of the policy.

A maximum of 216 units is permitted for all students in non-Engineering majors after their 12th quarter of study at UCI. For students in Engineering majors, the maximum number cannot exceed 236 unites after their 12th quarter of study at UCI.

Action: The item was deferred to the next meeting.

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

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.
Thao Nguyen
Academic Senate, Irvine Division
Attest: Craig Martens, Chair-Elect