I. CHAIR’S REPORT

New Member Welcome
Chair Meenakshisundaram introduced and welcomed Nasrin Rahimieh to the Council.

California SB520
SB520 is a bill regarding online education. It would require California State University (CSU) schools, University of California (UC) schools, and community colleges to give credit for online education courses. Which courses are eligible and not eligible for credit will be decided on by a six member faculty panel. Most of the courses will be organized by private partners. The UC Academic Senate, CSU system and community colleges are resistant to the changes as each have already begun creating their own set of online courses. The Senate Council chairs have met with Senator Ted Steinberg to discuss concerns.

Negotiated Salary Trial Plan
The Negotiated Salary Trial Plan draft implementation procedures and forms have been sent to UC Office of the President (UCOP) and are awaiting final approval. UCOP will compare the implementation guidelines submitted by the three participating campuses to ensure consistency. While we wait for approval, the draft procedures will also be sent to the academic units for the purpose of starting their planning process.

II. CONSENT ITEMS

The minutes from the February 12, 2013 March 12, 2013 meetings were unanimously approved.

III. SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERITI AFFAIRS – Status Report

None

IV. FACULTY WELFARE ISSUES UNDER REVIEW

A. Graduate Student Mentorship

Issue
Graduate student mentorship has become a recent topic of concern. A review conducted by a national council recently concluded graduate students do not receive enough training in communication, teamwork, and understanding of the transferability of their skills. Some of these exist here at UC Irvine. How do we promote and incentivize mentorship on our campus?

Discussion
The graduate student mentorship discussion is being driven by both the Graduate Division and the graduate students. Students feel there is great variability within some departments regarding student mentorship. Due to this variability, students would like to see a reward system implemented for faculty who put in the extra time to mentor. Graduate Division has been in consultation with organizations and has reached similar conclusions. The overall sentiment is that graduate students have good general skills within their fields but lack knowledge and experience in teamwork and communication.

Several suggestions were made to address incentivizing membership and increasing opportunities for students. Students made the suggestion faculty be rated in terms of percentile for student advancements and departmental presentations. One Council suggestion was for students to diversify by seeking out additional faculty support as opposed to focusing on one source for mentorship.
Another suggestion raised was to work through the department chair, as they balance the workload for faulty within their department. One example might be for the chair to assign formal teaching to those who don’t work with graduate students. Members noted schools in science related fields have the opportunity to send students to conferences for presentations and poster sessions for development. Therefore, another example might be for department chairs in non-science related units to create programs and opportunities structured around department interests where students can become involved in ways to develop their skill set.

Members also noted a distinction between mentoring and advising suggesting students outline their expectations for mentorship. Additionally, members recommended students seek faculty outside of their advisors with whom they get along and can communicate with as an additional source of mentorship. Academic Personnel shared UC Advance will be having a discussion on faculty mentorship on April 10. Some of the principles discussed could possibly apply to graduate mentorship. Documents have been uploaded to the UC Advance website and can be shared with graduate students as helpful resources for becoming better mentees.

Action
None required at this time.

V. UCI SENATE ISSUES UNDER REVIEW
None

VI. UC SENATE ISSUES UNDER REVIEW
A. UC Review of Proposed Revisions to APM Section IV, Salary Administration (APM – 600 Series)
Issue
The Council was asked to review and comment on the proposed revisions to APM Section IV, Salary Administration. The proposed revisions are in response to campus requests to update the APM, correct updated delegations of authority, to make technical corrections identified in past reviews, and to make the series congruent with the overall APM style and format.

Discussion
Members did oppose the changes made. However members noted it was difficult to review the document as it did not include the usual strike-outs and underlines, and the modifications spanned multiple sections of the document. Council members were concerned about the transparency of the document given how the changes were presented.

Action
The Council’s comments will be forwarded to the Senate Chair.

VII. STATUS REPORTS
Faculty Welfare Subcommittee – Gopi Meenakshisundaram, Rep to UCFW
No report

Affirmative Action Subcommittee – Grace Tonner, Rep to UCAAD
No Report

Academic Freedom Subcommittee – Jean-Daniel Saphores, Rep to UCAF
California SB520 (SB520)
SB520 would force UC, CSU, and the community colleges to accept for credit, courses taught by other entities including private institutions. All members present strongly opposed the bill. Members were concerned about maintaining the quality and integrity of our programs. Members
preferred California SB547 that would give us ultimate veto on which courses are transferable. Members also felt this would allow the best avenue for maintaining quality. Members do not want to be viewed as opposing online education but would like the opportunity to learn more and evaluate possible advantages. Members were also concerned about SB520 due to the possibility of privatization. Members are strongly opposed to privatizing the University.

**Academic Freedom Issues**
UC Davis had a recent case where a medical school faculty member was punished by their dean for opinions expressed regarding an inefficient medical test. The topic was one on which the faculty member was well versed. The dean’s actions were found to be inappropriate and the dean will be resigning. This issue is particularly relevant as UC Irvine is one of the only campuses that does not have a stand-alone committee on academic freedom. A guide was circulated to the members on how to investigate academic freedom issues.

**Forum for Contentious Issues**
UCAF is considering a forum to discuss contentious issues. For instance, a current chair from UC Los Angeles is in Veterinary Science and is using animals for experiments. Some people are strongly opposed to the use of animals for experiments. This forum would be a place where all parties could debate in a civilized manner.

**Faculty Recruiting**
In the school of Engineering, the dean is pushing for new hires in fields that can get research money. This is an issue because faculty in areas more difficult to obtain research funding are still needed to teach core classes in structure and design. Concerns have been raised that dictating department make-up while disregarding faculty advice could be infringing upon academic freedom.

**Academic Personnel – Joan Tenma**
No Report

**Equal Opportunity and Diversity Status Report – Gwen Kuhns Black**
No Report

**Human Resources Status Report on Benefits – Melody McCulloch**
No Report

**VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS**
None

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**Trash Service**
Jean-Daniel Saphores received an e-mail from a faculty member regarding diminished trash service in their building. Due to budget cuts, service has been reduced to from once a week to once a month. The faculty members shared the trash in Engineering Hall often overflows, smells, and is now attracting cockroaches and other pests. Due to the faculty member’s allergies and mention of pest issues, the Council suggested the issue be referred to the UC Irvine department of Environmental Health and Safety. Jean-Daniel will respond directly to the faculty member.

**Faculty Responsibility for Benefits**
At UC San Francisco some of the benefit costs have been transferred to individual departments, and eventually to individual faculty. The recent trend has been for benefits to move down from UCOP to individual campuses, which in turn has moved the costs to schools. Chair Meenakshisundaram asked that more information be gathered at UC Irvine on what is being discussed, the current
practice, and how it is changing so the Council can better put it into context of what is happening at other campuses. Members suggested the Council contact the dean of the School of Medicine to get specifics on this information.

Travel Documentation
The School of Humanities has implemented new rules regarding travel documentation for conferences and other trips made by faculty. Faculty members feel the new rules have become extreme and have created a culture of suspicion. One example of a new rule implemented is if the faculty member does not have a receipt for a purchase made at a conference, they must take a picture of themselves in front of the conference or get someone else who participated in the conference to bear witness they participated. Simply having your registration or name badge is no longer sufficient. The new changes are in response to a recent audit. The Council recommended the issue be discussed with the faculty chair or the school administrator. If the changes were introduced by members at this level, then the issue should be brought directly to the dean.

X. ADJOURNMENT: 5:03 P.M.

Submitted by Charlene Mandau