Chair's Summary

The 2014-15 academic year was a challenging one, due in part to changes in university leadership and in staffing in the Academic Senate Office. Many of the activities of the Senate had to do with changes in the way the University will fund its educational and research missions as we react to decreasing State support. Among the changes are growing numbers of self-supporting graduate and professional degree programs, the Negotiated Salary Trial Program that taps new sources of support for competitive faculty salaries, and changes in undergraduate admissions to increase the number of non-resident students and to identify students who can best benefit from some programs. Additionally, a far-reaching agreement among the University, the Governor, and the Legislature was achieved with significant impact on academic programs, Faculty total remuneration issues, admissions, and other aspects of the University’s operation. We discuss here a few of these and other major issues in which the Senate was engaged during the past year.

In Fall 2014, the Senate participated with the Administration in discussions about the Negotiated Salary Trial Program (NSTP), modifications to the reporting structure of Summer Session and the Distance Learning Center, the undergraduate admissions review process, admissions pilot programs initiated by some academic units, and the funding level of CORCL grants.

The NSTP allows Faculty with non-state sources of financial support to use that support to augment their academic year salary, subject to restrictions imposed by the grant source and the University. A joint Senate-Administration group evaluated and modified the application and approval procedure for salary supplements, and then reviewed applications for conformity to the program’s requirements. Academic year 2014-15 is the third year of applications to the program, and approximately 40 Faculty have benefited from this program in each year, with a significant overlap year-to-year. The Senate previously raised concerns about the program including the potential diversion of resources from other research support, the fairness with respect to access to funding depending on academic unit and funding agency, and the possibility that the program will not achieve its goals of contributing significantly to recruitment and retention. We suggest that the Senate evaluate these issues in the light of experience with the first three years of the trial program, prior to the end of the 5-year trial.
The Senate’s endorsement of the proposal to change the reporting structure of Summer Session and the Distance Learning Center affirms the important role of these entities and the need for more formal academic oversight of their programs. The Senate decided to delay for a year the scheduled review of Summer Session and Extension to allow the new organization to become effective.

In order to ensure compliance with the spirit of UC admissions, the Senate requested modification to the Biology pilot undergraduate admissions program. Subsequently, the Ayala School of Biological Sciences allocated additional resources to help entering students who, based on applicant admissions files and past experience of similar students, were at high risk of leaving the major; the School then suspended its pilot admissions program. The Senate has also worked with the Administration to organize an evaluation of these pilot admissions programs, to take place in Fall 2016. The units have provided a preliminary evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs to the Enrollment Council.

The Senate was able to secure from the Administration an additional $100,000 in CORCL funding to be used for competitive grants for research support. We have agreed to provide information about how these research funds benefit faculty research productivity.

Beginning in Winter 2015, the Senate was asked to comment on the distribution of a 3% faculty salary adjustment for 2015-2016. There has been a great deal of discussion about salary inequities and how these funds might be used to alleviate some of them, including the “loyalty penalty”. A significant amount of time was devoted to this issue at the last 2014-15 Divisional Senate Assembly meeting in order that the Senate leadership could accurately convey the sentiment of the faculty to the Administration. The decision was made system-wide to devote half of this salary pool to an across-the-board salary increase, and to use the other half of the funds to address broad issues of salary inequity resulting, for example, from new Faculty being hired at “market” salaries, often higher than those of continuing Faculty at the same rank and step. A joint Senate-Administration group has developed guidelines for Deans to make recommendations to the Vice Provost for Academic Personnel for allocation of these funds.

The Senate also engaged in numerous discussions about self-supporting programs (SSPs): graduate programs at the Masters level for which support is derived solely from tuition and fees charged to students in these programs. Senate Councils and the Cabinet reviewed 6 such program proposals during the 2014-15 academic year. These reviews initiated important conversations about the goals of SSPs, financial and otherwise; quality of instruction independent of funding source; the impact, both positive and negative, that these programs might have on state supported programs; and whether the full cost of these programs is covered by fees. Now that a number of SSPs have been approved, the Senate is encouraged to work with the Administration to
evaluate the effectiveness of these programs and their overall impact as we move forward in considering additional proposals.

Arriving at a budget agreement for the University among the Governor’s office, the legislature, and the University was an important activity throughout the year. It has broad impact on many issues, including the UC Retirement Program, the makeup of the undergraduate student body, efforts to improve time-to-degree and graduation rates, the State’s support for the University, and the University’s interaction with the Community College System and transfer admissions to the University. As part of agreed upon efforts to strengthen the latter, the Senate was asked to participate in discussions about making consistent among all Campus’s the course requirements for transfer admissions into popular majors. These discussions will continue in the coming year.

William Molzon
Chair, 2014-2015
Irvine Division of the Academic Senate

List of Activities
The following summarizes the Irvine Division Cabinet and Assembly activities and actions for 2014-2015, including the date(s) of the action. Please refer to the approved minutes and communications for details.

Academic Programs and Issues
• Endorsed the proposed inclusion of the undergraduate degree process as part of additions to the Course Inventory Management System (11/18/2014)
• Endorsed the proposal for a self-supporting program of graduate studies for the Master of Legal and Forensic Psychology (1/20/2015)
• Endorsed the proposal to establish a B.A. and M.A. degree in Art History (2/17/2015); Endorsed by Assembly (4/23/15)
• Endorsed the proposal to establish a B.S. degree in Data Science (3/03/2015); Endorsed by Assembly (4/23/2015)
• Endorsed the proposal for a self-supporting program of graduate studies for the Master of Laws in American Law (5/05/2015)
• Endorsed the proposal for a self-supporting program of graduate studies for the Master of Science in Pharmacology (6/02/2015)
• Endorsed the proposal for a self-supporting program of graduate studies for the Master of Computer Science (6/02/2015)
• Endorsed the proposal for a self-supporting program of graduate studies for the Master of Human Computer Interaction and Design (6/02/2015)
• Endorsed the proposal for a self-supporting program of graduate studies for the Master of Embedded and Cyber-Physical Systems (6/16/2015)
• Endorsed the proposal to establish a B.A. and Minor in Global Middle East Studies (8/17/2015)
• Forwarded a recommendation to the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor to fund the proposal to establish an Interdisciplinary Teaching Buyout Award (8/17/15)

Policies
• Endorsed the proposed revisions to Irvine Bylaw 85 (10/07/2014); Endorsed by Assembly (10/30/2014)
• Forwarded comments on the systemwide review of the proposed revisions of the Whistleblower Policy (10/21/2014)
• Forwarded comments on the systemwide review of the proposal for Doctoral Student Support (11/18/2014)
• Endorsed proposed amendments to APM 080 and 330 and forwarded comments to the Academic Council (11/18/2014)
• Endorsed proposed amendments to APM 133, 210, 220, and 760 and forwarded comments to the Academic Council (11/18/2014)
• Forwarded comments on the systemwide review of Presidential Policy on Open Access for Non-Senate Authors to the Office of the President (12/16/2014)
• Endorsed the Academic Integrity Policy as recommended by the Council on Student Experience (12/16/2014); Endorsed by Assembly (4/23/2015)
• Endorsed and forwarded to the Academic Senate Provost and Executive Vice President and Academic Chair Council comments on the Systemwide Review of Faculty Salary Costing Draft (1/06/2015)
• Endorsed the addition of a mentorship award and revisions to Bylaw 127 (1/20/2015); Endorsed by Assembly (2/12/2015)
• Endorsed modifications to the Law School Bylaws (1/20/2015); Endorsed by Assembly (2/12/2015)
• Endorsed modifications to the School of Social Ecology Bylaws (1/20/2015); Endorsed by Assembly (2/12/2015)
• Endorsed proposed amendments to Senate Regulation 682 and forwarded comment to the Academic Council (2/03/2015)
• Endorsed proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 128 D.2 and forwarded comment to the Academic Council (3/03/2015)
• Endorsed proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 182 and forwarded comment to the Academic Council (3/17/2015)

• Forwarded comments on the final systemwide review of UC Policy on Copyright and Fair Use (4/07/2015)

• Forwarded comments on the systemwide review of the proposed revisions to Presidential Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence (4/07/2015)

• Forwarded comments on the systemwide review of the proposed revisions to APM 201-4 (5/05/2015)

• Endorsed the proposed modifications to School of Education Bylaws (5/19/2015); Endorsed by Assembly (5/28/2015)

• Endorsed the proposed modifications to School of Humanities Bylaws (6/16/2015)

• Endorsed the proposed modifications to Henry Samueli School of Engineering Bylaws (5/19/2015); Endorsed by Assembly (5/28/2015)

• Endorsed the proposed modifications to Regulation (505-530), Chapter II. Section I. General Requirements (5/19/2015); Endorsed by Assembly (5/28/2015)

• Endorsed the proposed modifications to School of Humanities Bylaws (6/16/2015)

Faculty Welfare
• Forwarded recommendations to Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor on mental health issues to be included in department chair training and for support in inviting a speaker to discuss mental health issues for faculty (2/03/2015)

Budget and Planning
• Forwarded comments to systemwide on the Draft Guidelines for Pilot Program to Accept Equity for Access to University Facilities or Services (5/05/2015)

Endowed Chairs
• Approved Falmagne Endowed Chairs in Mathematical Psychology or Mathematical Cognitive Sciences in the School of Social Sciences, Cognitive Sciences Department (12/16/2014)

• Approved the establishment of the Meghrouni Family Presidential Chair in Armenian Studies in the School of Humanities (1/06/2015)

• Approved the establishment of the Thakkar Family- Dharma Civilization Foundation Presidential Chair in Vedic and Indic Civilization Studies (6/16/2015)

• Approved the establishment of the Presidential Chair in Urology Tissue Engineering (6/16/2015)
• Approved the establishment of the Endowed Chair in Endourology (6/16/2015)

Awards and Honors
• Endorsed the addition of a mentorship award and revisions to Bylaw 127 (1/20/2015); Endorsed by Assembly (2/12/2015)

Senate Management (meeting dates, changes to Senate procedures, etc.)
• Approved a resolution that it be the responsibility of the Chair for the Minutes to be approved within ten days of the last meeting (10/21/2014)