

# UC Irvine Academic Senate

*Fall 2015 Newsletter*

## *Greetings from the Divisional Senate*

This newsletter contains a rather complete summary of the activities and accomplishments of the Irvine Division of the Academic Senate during the Fall quarter of the 2015/16 academic year. We encourage you to read the entire newsletter to gain a better understanding of the role of the Senate in academic and administrative issues that influence the future development of the campus.

Several issues will require the engagement of the Senate during the next few months. Early in January, President Napolitano will distribute for review and comment a revised retirement plan for all employees (including faculty) hired after July 1, 2016. This new plan may differ in important ways from the current retirement plan and have an impact on total faculty remuneration (salary plus financial value of benefits) and our ability to recruit future faculty. The Divisional Senate Assembly meeting on January 28 (3:30 – 5:00 pm in Humanities Instruction Building room 1030) will provide an opportunity for faculty to learn about, and comment on, the proposed changes. In order for the Senate to effectively express its opinion about this new plan and formulate its response, we need your input. Please plan to attend this important meeting of the Divisional Senate Assembly.

A second significant issue involves the budget agreement between the University and the State that includes an expectation that UC will enroll an additional 10,000 California residents (freshman and transfers) over the next three years beginning in Fall 2016. The campus share of this increase is not yet known but inevitably the increase will challenge the campus' ability to maintain the current level of excellence in our educational programs. The Irvine Division needs to actively participate in identifying and resolving the many issues that emerge as the campus absorbs these additional new undergraduates. Ensuring an appropriate balance between undergraduate and graduate academic programs will be only one of the more significant challenges.

This year the campus simultaneously celebrates the first half-century, and prepares for the beginning of the next half century, of our academic growth. During the last few months, many of the Faculty have been involved, under administrative leadership, in the preparation of a strategic plan to guide the continued growth (both in size and quality) for the next decade. A draft version

has been widely circulated for campus review and comment. The final version will likely become available early in the Winter quarter of 2016.

Effective shared governance of UC and UCI requires that Faculty remain informed about and engaged in the issues that will influence the future evolution of the campus. We encourage the Faculty to help with the Senate's engagement in campus leadership by volunteering to serve on any of the standing Committees or Councils of the Irvine Division, and on the numerous ad hoc work groups, search committees, and advisory panels that occur during the course of the academic year.

*Bill Parker, Chair Elect, Irvine Division of the UC Academic Senate.*

### **News from the Cabinet and Divisional Senate Assembly**

- **2015 Senate Retreat**

The Senate held its annual retreat on September 22, 2015 where all members in attendance reviewed Senate policies and discussed matters of high importance for the campus, such as undergraduate and graduate education, student life, and faculty welfare. Chair Terricciano encouraged Senate members to continue the conversations with fellow faculty at UCI and in the UC that reflect matters of importance to the Senate.

- **Mental Health Event**

The Council on Faculty Welfare, in collaboration with the Program in Public Health, hosted a special forum on faculty mental health on December 9, 2015 at the UClub. The guest speaker was Elyn Saks, J.D., Ph.D. an Orrin B. Evans Professor of Law, Psychology, and Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences at the University of Southern California. More information on the guest speakers can be found here:

[http://publichealth.uci.edu/ph/index.php/seminars/upcoming\\_list/10193](http://publichealth.uci.edu/ph/index.php/seminars/upcoming_list/10193).

The forum's goal was to enlighten our campus to reveal, reflect, research and reform the perception of mental health for our faculty members. The event brought in around 50 attendees and was recorded for those who could not attend. The video will be posted on UCI's Academic Senate website. For the direct link email Senate Analyst, Charlene Mandau at [charman@uci.edu](mailto:charman@uci.edu).

- **African American Studies Department Proposal**

On June 12, 2015, the Senate Cabinet received for review a proposal requesting the departmentalization of the program in African American Studies in the School of Humanities. The documentation was reviewed by the Councils on Planning & Budget (CPB), Educational Policy (CEP), Research Computing and Libraries (CORCL), and the Graduate Council (GC). The program in African American Studies has been in existence for over 20 years, offering both a minor and major since 1995, and holding its own dedicated faculty FTE, staff, budget, and structures of autonomous governance.

Additionally, this is the only existing IDP that does not have departmental status.

At its meeting of November 17, 2015, the Senate Cabinet concluded its review of the proposal, considering the School of Humanities' response to the Senate's request for

additional information in July 2015. The Cabinet supported the recommendations put forth by CPB, CEP, CORCL and the Graduate Council to endorse the departmentalization of African American Studies. This endorsement concludes the Senate review of this proposal.

- **Self- Supporting Programs**

The Senate is having ongoing discussions in order to articulate clear guidelines and standards for the review of SSP proposals. These guidelines will help standardize proposals and make the review of proposals more effective.

- **Enrollment Caps for Impacted Majors at UCI**

The Cabinet discussed the authority of the Senate to establish and modify enrollment caps on impacted majors, in light of President Napolitano's request for each campus to increase its enrollments to facilitate an overall increase of 5,000 undergrads in the system. The Cabinet concurred that the Senate should provide educational advice and that the authority to create or modify enrollment caps resides with the Provost. The Senate will communicate its views on this issue to the administration via the Council on Student Enrollment and Success (CSES).

- **Endowed Chairs**

The Senate Cabinet endorsed the following Endowed Chairs:

1. Francisco J. Ayala Administrative Chairs (4)
2. Stacey Nicholas Dean of Engineering Endowed Chair
3. Dharma Civilization Foundation Presidential Chair in Modern India Studies
4. Dhan Kaur Sahota Presidential Chair in Sikh Studies
5. Shri Parshvanath Presidential Chair in Jain Studies

- **Academic Senate Distinguished Faculty Awards**

The annual Distinguished Faculty Awards ceremony was held on November 9, 2015, recognizing Senate members for their outstanding research, teaching and service. The list of recipients can be found here: <http://senate.uci.edu/files/2015/09/SAE-Invite1.pdf>

- **UCI Strategic Plan**

The Provost held an open forum with Senate members at the Divisional Senate Assembly meeting of October 29 to discuss and answer questions regarding the UCI Strategic Plan working documents. These documents can be found on the Office of the Provost's webpage: <http://provost.uci.edu/strategic-plan/plan-pdfs.html>

- **The Divisional Senate Assembly approved the following proposals:**

1. Proposal to Establish a B.A. and Minor in Global Middle East Studies
2. Proposal to Revise School of Humanities Bylaws
3. Proposal to Amend the Henry Samueli School of Engineering Bylaws
4. The Annual Reports of Standing Committees for 2014-15

(Systemwide Items)

- **UC Health**

Chair Terricciano forwarded the Cabinet's comments regarding the recent proposed revisions to the governance of the UC Health System to the Academic Council on October 7<sup>th</sup>. At this time, the outcome of the response to the proposal is unknown. Chair Terricciano will provide updates as they become available.

- **Systemwide Final Review of Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment**

The proposed revisions address the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) regulations and recent legislation requirements. The revisions also update the definition of consent and add additional definitions to improve readability, consistency, and understanding. Additionally, the revisions address outstanding issues and questions posed by faculty, students, and staff.

The Council on Student Experience (CSE) and Council on Faculty Welfare (CFW) conducted a final review of the revisions to the systemwide Presidential Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence. The revisions were in response to feedback from each of the campuses during the 2014-15AY review. Graduate Council also reviewed the policy at their October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Council opinions were then brought to the Cabinet.

The Cabinet discussed the proposed policy, its definitions, training expectations, reporting requirements, and remedies and/or disciplinary actions for policy violations. Chair Terricciano forwarded the Cabinet's response to the systemwide Academic Council in October.

An interim policy has been in effect since July 1, 2015. The final policy is expected to be approved at the systemwide level in January 2016.

### **News from the Councils and Committees**

#### **Council on Academic Personnel (CAP)**

There were no substantive changes to the Academic Personnel Manual relating to personnel actions, title changes or processes submitted this academic year. All other actions were confidential and thus cannot be reported in this forum.

#### **Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools (CUARS)**

- **2016 UCI Comprehensive Review – Freshman Overview Information – New Readers**

Council members participated in the comprehensive review training scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, from 830-230 in the Student Center. The training is for both campus and external freshman application readers. The training includes a review of the training manual, practice scoring actual applications from previous admissions

cycles, and norming of application scores. As part of the certification process, admission file readers review and score 50 applications, and must score them within the normed range. Chair Gonzalez encouraged the council to participate as it will be really helpful in understanding comprehensive review and how the 14 factors are used in the review of admissions applications.

- **Spring 2016 Transfer proposal**

Per the Office of Admissions, the transfer application process for spring 2016 is now open. The application process for Spring 2016 is running in parallel to Fall 2016 admissions; transfer students who apply for both Spring 2016 and Fall 2016 will only have to pay the application fee once. Director Morales noted that certain majors have been excluded from Spring 2016 transfer admissions per the deans in those units. The list of excluded majors is available on the Admissions website at:

[http://www.admissions.uci.edu/applicants/transfer\\_spring2016app.html](http://www.admissions.uci.edu/applicants/transfer_spring2016app.html)

- **Campus Outreach Programs Focus: American Indian Resource Program**

The Council had the opportunity to interact with Joe Graham, Director of the American Indian Resource Center. There was a spirited discussion around the feelings and experiences that result from the challenges faced by tribal students, academically and otherwise. There was also discussion about tribal ID identifiers and the desire by Admissions to support the efforts of the American Indian Resource Center, specifically through the provision of application writing workshops.

- **Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulations 417 and 621**

The Council reviewed the proposed modifications to Senate Regulation 417, addressing UC applicants who complete coursework at a college while enrolled in high school, and 621, addressing the standardized examination credit students may present to the University. CUARS determined that the modifications to update and clarify the language of those regulations were noncontroversial and straightforward. Chair Gonzalez forwarded the council's comments to Chair Terricciano.

### **Graduate Council (GC)**

Graduate Council approved revisions to the 2011 Academic Disqualification Policy at the November 12, 2015 meeting. The Council sought the advice and consultation from Graduate Division, Campus Counsel, the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, School Associate Deans for Graduate Affairs and various graduate staff. Much of the feedback was incorporated and it is the Council's sincere belief that this policy is stronger because of the expertise that was offered. Graduate Council hopes these revisions better serve the Schools and students in helping them navigate a difficult situation. The policy is posted online at:

<http://senate.uci.edu/committees/councils/graduate-council-gc/policies-and-procedures/>

The Council conducted an initial review of two new self-supporting Master degree programs:

- Masters in Conservation and Restoration Science from the School of Biological Sciences
- Master of Finance from the School of Business

The Council approved the proposal for a JD/Master's in Urban Regional Planning concurrent degree program. This proposal does not need systemwide CCGA approval and is therefore effective immediately.

### **Council on Student Experience (CSE)**

The Council met with the Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education and the Vice Provost's Executive Director of the Center for Engaged Instruction to consider new initiatives underway for the 2015-16AY. The Council plans to examine the new initiatives in greater detail as the year progresses.

The Council also worked with Student Affairs to finalize the language and approve the draft Academic Integrity Procedures. Implementation of the procedures is anticipated for Fall 2016.

The Council plans to end the quarter with a review on the Canvas Pilot and a follow-up on the implementation process for the Task Force for Ensuring a Positive Campus Climate for the Campus's African American Community's recommendations.

### **Council on Faculty Welfare (CFW)**

The Council endorsed the proposed change to Systemwide Bylaw 140 – Affirmative Action and Diversity. The proposed change to the bylaw would amend the committee's name to include the word "equity."

This year the Council will examine matters relating to academic freedom as well as University Hills and UCIPD community relations. The Council continues to evaluate issues relating to health and childcare. More in-depth analysis of these issues is scheduled for Winter and Spring Quarters 2016.

As a reminder to all members of the Academic Senate, when active or retired members of the Academic Senate pass away, departments are expected to prepare a Memorial Resolution that will be published on the UC Academic Senate's In Memoriam website. Guidelines for submitting Memorial Resolutions are published on CFW's web page at [http://senate.uci.edu/files/2014/06/WebInfoRe\\_InMemoriam.pdf](http://senate.uci.edu/files/2014/06/WebInfoRe_InMemoriam.pdf).

Senate members are encouraged to forward issues related to faculty welfare, academic freedom, affirmative action and diversity, and emeriti affairs to the Council for review and discussion.

### **The Council on Educational Policy (CEP)**

In addition to reviewing proposals for new undergraduate majors, CEP activity has focused on a number of other important issues directly related to undergraduate education curriculum and courses.

- CEP completed its review of all courses with General Education II (Science and Technology) and GE III (Social and Behavioral Sciences) designations. In December, each UCI School will receive a memo from CEP detailing the outcome of the review.
- CEP submitted its appraisal of the APRB external review of the School of Business to the Provost and Dean of the School of Business.

- CEP continues to discuss a request from the Task Force for Ensuring a Positive Climate for the Campus' African American Community to add a course learning outcome to General Education VII (Multicultural).
- CEP continues to discuss general matters related to the scope, charge, and other aspects of the upcoming CEP external review of Summer Session. A subcommittee of CEP devoted to the review will begin meeting regularly in January 2016.
- CEP received approval from the Provost's Office to fund CEP's Interdisciplinary Teaching Support Award (ITSA). The award will be used to support interdisciplinary courses that would not normally be offered. CEP is in the process of developing a review timeline and review criteria for ITSA course proposals.

### **Council on Research, Computing, and Libraries (CORCL)**

- In response to a request from Provost Dorr to the three pilot campuses – UC Irvine, UCLA, and UCSF – of the Open Access Policy, CORCL transmitted to Senate Chair Terricciano a report prepared by the UCI Libraries detailing the campus implementation. The Council supports continued funding of the UC Publication Management System as part of the Open Access Policy implementation.
- CORCL received a \$34,000 increase in its faculty research funding for 2015-16.

### **Council on Planning and Budget (CPB)**

At the campus level, the Council reviewed the following proposals for Endowed Chairs:

- Four Francisco Ayala Administrative Endowed Chairs in (1) Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, (2) Developmental and Cell Biology, (3) Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, (4) Neurobiology and Behavior in the Ayala School of Biological Sciences: CPB endorsed these chairs with the stipulation that confirmation be sought that this use of the gift is consonant with the donor's intentions.
- The Stacey Nicholas Dean of Engineering Administrative Endowed Chair in the Henry Samueli School of Engineering was endorsed by CPB.
- The Dharma Civilization Foundation Presidential Chair in Modern India Studies in the School of Humanities was endorsed by CPB with the stipulation that no substantial library resources would be needed to support the scholarship of the proposed chair.
- The Dhan Kaur Sahota Presidential Chair in Sikh Studies in the School of Humanities was endorsed by CPB with the stipulation that no substantial library resources would be needed to support the scholarship of the proposed chair.
- The Shri Parshvanath Presidential Chair in Jain Studies in the School of Humanities was endorsed by CPB with the stipulation that no substantial library resources would be needed to support the scholarship of the proposed chair.