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Obviously the increased scope of the joint review process has created some new problems. For instance, the focus of each review is not as tight as before, but still some programs span more than one school. We are now 70% of the way through the first cycle of the joint review process. Biology, Humanities, Physical Sciences, Social Ecology and Social Science have been reviewed, Engineering and ICS are being reviewed, and Arts will be reviewed next year. We are about to decide how to "review the review process" and how to proceed in the future.

It is important to give the joint review process the best chance of succeeding before this Review of the Reviews. We are therefore urging the Council on Educational Policy and the Graduate Council, who oversee the reviews, to make this a top priority for the next two years. We are also seeking input from the faculty and the administration for ways to improve the structure of joint reviews. Your ideas would be most welcome. Please send your comments to kcjanda@uci.edu.

Ken Janda will act as the contact for the Faculty with respect to Senate business. You can reach him by email: kcjanda@uci.edu or phone: 4-5266, to offer suggestions for how the Senate can better serve you, the Faculty and the University.

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Why Should You and I Care About the Senate?

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School Review Process

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Budget Planning

Although the University Budget is extremely complicated, the Academic Senate can have real influence on both the big picture and the details of the budget if it focuses its effort. Under the leadership of Chancellor Cicerone and Executive Vice Chancellor Gottfredson, the Senate has played a large role in planning for the future. A topic of particular interest is planning for growth and setting numerical FTE targets. By the end of this quarter, a draft of the new strategic plan should be available for faculty comment.

Another topic near to the heart of many faculty is the fate of indirect cost funds on grants. Associate Vice Chancellor Campbell made a presentation on this issue to the Academic Senate Retreat on Sept. 23. We learned that, in principle, 94% of a "normal" indirect cost dollar comes back to the campus. How this happens and where the money goes is very complicated. One number that is interesting is that about 10 cents of each indirect cost dollar is returned to individual academic units. After that, there is no uniform policy for what happens to those dollars: almost $5,000,000 this year!

Graduate Student Housing

The Graduate Council has been very effective in improving the availability of graduate student housing at UCI. David Brownstone reviewed progress and prospects at the Senate retreat. The good news is that, starting in 2006, all incoming students will be guaranteed on-campus housing. The bad news is that some of this housing will be quite expensive. Obtaining an effective allocation of affordable graduate student housing will have to remain a high priority of the Senate for the foreseeable future.

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Notes From the Academic Senate Chair and Chair Elect

Joseph DiMento and Kenneth Janda

As Chair and Chair Elect of the Faculty Senate we want to continue to improve communication between the Senate and the Faculty. Here, we will touch on some of the current highlights of Senate activity. More information is available on the web, (http://www.senate.uci.edu/).

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Academic Publishing

Another item that is very important in the University Budget is academic publishing. Gerald Munoff, our University Librarian, has been very active on this issue and the Academic Senate is working to cooperate with his efforts. You may remember the crisis last winter when Elsevier wanted to significantly raise the price to subscribe to its journals. Although the University was able to negotiate a decrease in the subscription rate, this only delays the crisis. Mr. Munoff is proposing that we take an active control of the publishing process. In particular, he urges each faculty member to maintain control over his or her copyrights. A resolution to this effect is working its way through the Senate. Stay tuned.

Senate Participation

The Senate works best when the faculty actively participate. Ideally, each school would have a representative on each Senate council. The Committee on Committees is starting to prepare a slate for next year. Please volunteer by contacting Tracy Calvert in the Senate office at tcalvert@uci.edu or 824-8213.

Faculty Code of Conduct

A new UC-wide revision sets forth ethical principles and unacceptable conduct with regard to faculty members and their students. The revised policy prohibits a romantic or sexual relationship between a faculty member and any student for whom the faculty currently has or might have academic responsibility. It is important that you be aware of this policy. You can read the new policy at: http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/apm/apm-015.pdf. Some members of the faculty believe the new policy is too restrictive and too open to arbitrary interpretation and enforcement. The Senate is exploring whether to recommend that the policy be amended. However, changing a UC-wide policy will take substantial time and effort. A successful effort will require not only a critical mass on this campus, but also on several other campuses.

Senate News Briefs

Issues Currently Under Review by Councils and Committees:

1. University Hills ownership and priority policy.
2. A more visible role for faculty diversity and issues relating to gender equity.
3. Graduate student funding packages including campus housing allocations.
4. How to encourage and facilitate joint degree programs.

Topics for Discussion from the Senate Cabinet Annual Retreat:

1. Should UCI have a general Liberal Arts degree?
2. Should we revive the Land Use and Environment Committee? In what form?
3. How should we implement ideas from the new Strategic Plan for greater excellence?
4. How should teaching assignments be made under an integrated summer session?
5. How should Organized Research Units (ORU) be approved, budgeted, and reviewed?
   Is there an appropriate number of ORUs for the campus?
6. Should the College of Medicine be added to the joint review process?
7. Is UCI large enough that we should consider adding a Provost position?

These are only a few of the many important issues the Senate is working on. We urge all UCI faculty to participate. The whole can be much greater than the sum of the parts, if we chose to make it so.