

COUNCIL ON STUDENT EXPERIENCE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2007-2008

**To the Irvine Divisional Senate Assembly:**

**I. Council Operations**

Bruce Blumberg, Associate Professor of Earth System Science in the School of Biological Sciences, chaired the Council on Student Experience (CSE) in 2007-08. The Council met nine times during the academic year. Attending regular CSE meetings were twelve elected faculty members, the Associate Dean and Assistant Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education (*ex officio*), the Librarians Association of the University of California, Irvine (LAUC-I) Representative, the Director of the Teaching, Learning & Technology Center (TLTC, formerly the IRC, the Director of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, and the Associated Students of University of California, Irvine (ASUCI) Representative.

Academic year 2007-08 was the fifth year of the newly configured Council on Student Experience. CSE was formed by the 2002-03 Senate Restructure which merged the Committee on Student Affairs and the Committee on Teaching. The review of Intramural and Intercollegiate Athletics was also added to the Council's duties. The Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors, and Financial Aids (BUSHFA) and the Campuswide Honors Program (CHP) Board report to and advise CSE.

In AY 2007-08, in addition to discussions and votes on local and university-wide topics, CSE had several discussions on freedom of speech and civil discourse, biking, academic honesty, teaching evaluations, the non-status of minors, scholarship realignment, crimes on campus, the cost of textbooks at the UCI bookstore, and student grievance hearings.

The Council appointed members to represent CSE on various committees during the year, formally or informally:

- A. Academic Grievance, *Rudi Berkelhamer*
- B. Teaching Committee, *Loretta Livingston, I-Lien Tsay*
- C. Minority Student Experience, *Rudi Berkelhamer*
- D. Transportation, *Lichun Baau*
- E. Special Senate Committee on Diversity (SSCD), *Zina Giannopoulou*
- F. Biking Advisory Committee: *Robert McCleary*
- G. Graduate Student Housing: *Andrew Putnam*

**II. Divisional Issues/Policies**

- A. Proposal to eliminate Appendix XI (Teaching proposal, and Teaching Portfolio). Appendix XI, the Teaching Proposal, is out of date, was never formally approved as an Appendix and is not the appropriate place for these guidelines. The University wide Senate Manual does not have a formal definition of "Appendix." CSE asked CRJ (Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction) to remove the Appendix from the Irvine Senate Manual. October, 2007.
- B. Scholarship Alignment Proposal at UC Irvine  
The financial aid proposal aligns the Regents and Chancellor scholarships in the hope of expanding the yield rate of scholarship students by modestly lowering

GPA and test requirements and the annual scholarship amount. CSE endorsed the proposal with a few concerns. The first concern would be that need-based scholarship students might not have sufficient funding to cover expenses without having to participate in a work/study program that they normally would not have been required to do. Another issue had to do with the possibility that the one thousand dollars given to students over the summer might encourage students to spend money on courses instead of allowing them to perform research. November, 2007.

- C. Teacher Evaluations and Release of Student Grades.  
CSE is opposed to the linking of completing student evaluations of faculty teaching performance with the release of grades. CSE recognizes the value of student evaluations yet feels strongly that the evaluation process should remain voluntary. February, 2008.
- D. Evaluating Teaching at UC Irvine  
CSE members were asked by the divisional senate to report on ways that teaching is evaluated at UC Irvine. The purpose of the report was to determine what the Council on Academic Personnel (CAP) uses to evaluate teaching and to come up with a more effective process for the evaluation of teaching. CSE recommends that instructors might improve the response rate of online evaluations by emphasizing the importance of evaluations and reminding students that evaluation ratings and comments could lead to future improvements. CSE also encourages departments to judge teaching based on the opinions of other faculty and graduates in addition to successful techniques or projects that have been completed by students who have taken a specific course. These recommendations were brought to the divisional senate where they received general support. April, 2008.

### III. System-wide Issues/Policies

- A. BOARS Eligibility Proposal  
CSE voted in favor of the BOARS eligibility proposal, which would lessen the guarantee for admission into UC and allow more applications to be reviewed individually. One matter voiced by members was that creating a larger pool of UC applicants would require that units be provided with sufficient additional funds that would allow them to examine a larger number of applicant files. October, 2007.
- B. Systemwide review of the Proposed Amendments to SR 636  
CSE voted to accept the language changes made to Senate Regulation 636. University of California Entry Level Writing Requirement. The language is more concise and “approved test of Writing” replaces specific names of standardized writing tests (e.g., SAT II). October, 2007.
- C. Report and comment on System-wide review of Proposed Regulations Governing Conduct of Non-Affiliates:  
CSE understood that this proposal was written with well-intentioned guidelines to govern the conduct of non-affiliates of UC, particularly at other UC campuses. However, these regulations may deter political demonstrations that may be lawful on state property. November, 2007.

D. CCGA/UCEP Report: The role of Graduate Students in University Instruction.

CSE members expressed some concerns about this report. The language in the report needs to be more precise with regard to the definitions of “Teaching Assistants,” “Teaching Fellows” and “Faculty” in instructional matters. Clear definitions of these titles would help clarify who can become a teaching fellow and the type and degree of supervision that would be expected. November, 2007.

**IV. New and/or Continuing Business**

A. Promote Civil Discourse on Campus

CSE heard a proposal from Jack Sklansky (Professor Emeritus in Electrical Engineering) on the importance of speaking civilly when discussing potentially contentious subjects on campus. Improving civil discourse means educating students and improving mutual understanding of various cultures. Consensus among groups about what is civil is also necessary. CSE awaits a formal report from Professor Sklansky on ways to improve civil discourse on campus.

B. Biking on Campus

CSE had three major discussions on the difficulties surrounding biking on campus. CSE received input from the Department of Parking and Transportation, the Biking Committee, and the UCI Police. In spite of the fact that one major goal of UCI is to eliminate the growth of the number of drivers on campus, biking (one alternative method of transportation) is becoming more difficult, unsafe and inconvenient for faculty and students. The widening of the inner ring over the 2008 summer should be helpful but a number of other issues remain such as limited access to the inner ring and complete prohibition of biking on the outer ring. CSE will continue to hear from academic and administrative units on this issue.

C. Improve response rate of online teaching evaluations

The Associate Dean for the Division of Undergraduate Education is looking for ways to increase the response rate of online teaching evaluations. One suggestion from this office is to publish evaluations of students and to allow access to what other students wrote only after an evaluation has been completed. CSE will continue to provide feedback to DUE on this matter.

CSE Members

<b>Faculty Members</b>	
Loretta Livingston	Arts
Bruce Blumberg	Chair, Biological Sciences
Cristina Gibson	Business
Andrew Putnam	Engineering
Joyce Keyak	Health Sciences
James Chiampi	Humanities
Lichun Bao	ICS
Fillmore Freeman	Physical Sciences
Richard McCleary	Social Ecology
Belinda Robnett	Social Sciences

Kamal Sadiq (fall leave	Social Ecology
<b>Ex Officio</b>	
George Tita, (reports quarterly)	Chair, BUSHFA
	Chair, Honors Board
Sharon Salinger	Dean, DUE
Rudi Berkelhamer	Dean, DUE
Manuel Gomez	VC Student Affairs
Dan Dooros	Assoc. VC Student Affairs
<b>Consultants</b>	
De Gallow	TLTC
Said Shokair	Dir. UROP
<b>Representatives</b>	
Bob Johnson	LAUC-I
I Lien Tsay	AGS
Megan Ikeda	ASUCI
Tania Asef	ASUCI
<b>Guests &amp; Alternates</b>	
Luisa Crespo	Executive Director, Academic Senate
Tim Bradley	Chair, Academic Senate
Jack Skalansky	Professor Emeritis, Electrical Engineering
Melissa Bruninga-Matteau	AGS President
Stacey Murren,	Director, Parking & Transportation
Paige Macias	Vice Chancellor Administration
Michael Smith	Director, UCI Bookstore
Fran Jurnak	Chair of CAP
Paula Smith	Assoc. Athletics Dir.
Paul Henisey	UCI Chief of Police
Jeff Hutchison	UCI Assis.Chief Police
Elizabeth Bennett	Registrar
<b>Analyst</b>	
Michelle AuCoin	Council Analyst