

COUNCIL ON STUDENT EXPERIENCE
ANNUAL REPORT
2008-2009

To the Irvine Divisional Senate Assembly:

I. Council Operations

Andrew Putnam, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering, chaired the Council on Student Experience (CSE) in 2008-09. The Council met eight 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), the Director of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, the Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and the Director of Research and Evaluation in Student Affairs, two representatives from the Association of Graduate Students (AGS) and one representative from the Associated Students of University of California, Irvine (ASUCI).

Academic year 2008-09 was the sixth 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 2008-09, in addition to discussions and votes on local and university-wide topics, CSE had several discussions on academic honesty, teaching, scholarships for transfer students, student grievance hearings, preparing graduate students for graduate school, and student photo ID cards.

I. Divisional Issues/Policies

A. Transfer Honors Enrollment Guarantee

In an effort to increase yield rates of honors transfer students, The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships proposed a Regents pilot program to recruit a select group of Honors transfers from local community colleges. Under this plan a select group of transfer students from six local community colleges would qualify for a 2500.00 honorarium (with the possibility of additional funding pending need) and entrance into the University's Campuswide Honors Program. Normally these students would go to UCLA or Berkeley. CSE endorsed this proposal which was subsequently endorsed by the Cabinet. As of June, 2009, UCI had received close to the target number of students for this program.

B. Comment on Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) memo regarding UCRS and Total Compensation

CPB provided some UCI senate councils with a memo which described the declining competitiveness of UC total compensation to faculty and staff in light of the proposed restarting of mandatory retirement contributions and the increased budget constraints imposed by the reduced state budget. CSE members generally agreed with the concerns of CPB but stated that any attempt to preserve

faculty and staff salaries would need to be balanced with a fair assessment of its impact on students.

C. **Making Official UC Photo IDs available to faculty through EEE**

The Electronic Education Environment (EEE) at UCI sought feedback from the Academic Senate on establishing a regular “photo feed” for official UC identification cards. CSE members were generally supportive of the plan mainly because allowing the instructors to see student’s faces would help make teaching and learning more personable. Student representatives to CSE, on the other hand, stated that photo IDs would be an infringement on privacy. In a survey conducted by ASUCI, it was found that about fifty percent of students were in favor of the plan but only if students could opt out of having their photo used. CSE members, after hearing these concerns, agreed with ASUCI’s recommendation.

D. **The Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center**

TLTC awarded professors and instructors for teaching performance in the following categories:

- Professor of the Year
- Lecturer of the Year
- TA development Award
- Most Promising Future Faculty Member
- Civic Engagement
- Instructional Technology Innovation

The Teaching, Learning and Technology Center also hosted two teaching colloquies. The last colloquy was held in February and was titled, “More than Student Evaluations: Using Portfolios to Represent Your Teaching” Sponsored by the Division of Undergraduate Education”. Teaching Colloquies are opportunities for the campus instructional community to discuss a wide range of topics related to teaching. Panelists and presenters are usually UCI faculty and staff, however invited guests have included Sheila Tobias (Math & Science Education), Patricia Hutchings (Carnegie Foundation), Joan Middendorf (Scholarship of Teaching & Learning), Jack Logan (Distance Learning), and Debra Allen (Problem-Based Learning), among others.

E. **Academic Dishonesty Reporting**

Academic dishonesty is under-reported on campus, and under reporting has been attributed to fear of retribution by students and inconvenience. To encourage instructors to report academic dishonesty, a software system (Simplicity) is being used to simplify the process. The process of reporting goes like this: faculty will input an academic dishonesty incident (Faculty can choose from types of academic honesty violations plagiarism, cheating on tests, stealing tests etc.) into the program. The incident will be described in a designated box. The course of action taken and recommendations from the Associate Dean can then be indicated. A form letter will populate the fields that can be edited by the faculty member who is reporting. Defaults on who is copied on the letter will be provided (e.g. Associate Dean, Chair). There will be just one faculty report on the academic dishonesty incident and the problem of deciding what to do in cases of academic honesty (i.e., which step to take next, who to inform etc.) will be decided by the program, not the faculty member. The benefit of using this mechanism of reporting is that there will be one place that stores all of this

information so faculty can know if a student has committed academic dishonesty in the past. Faculty can also feel less anxious about the outcome of reporting an incident because they will be protected by the steps and objectivity of the Simplicity system.

F. LAUNCH Committee Report (preparing undergraduates for graduate schools).

Report of the Launch Committee includes an overview on the status of currently available programs and services on the UCI campus to inform and help prepare UCI undergraduates to successfully apply to graduate and professional programs, and also presents a set of recommendations for how to improve campus-wide information and access to these services and programs, as well as specific proposals for expanding these services to parts of the campus where there are currently not or only scarcely offered.

The Launch Committee was charged by the Academic Senate to examine the current programs and services and to develop recommendations to improve the information and preparation of UCI undergraduates for graduate and professional schools. This LAUNCH committee was established based on the field experience of faculty who have encountered a number of high achieving undergraduates at UCI who were insufficiently informed or even misinformed (e.g., regarding availability of funding) about the opportunities, the application process, cost, competitiveness and outcomes for graduate/professional schools. The complete report from the Launch Committee still needs to be approved by the Senate Cabinet before information in it is circulated.

G. Teaching Assistant Teaching Evaluation Form

To ensure that teaching evaluation forms more closely align with instructor assessment, Rudi Berkelhamer and De Gallow designed a TA form to be reviewed by CSE. CSE voted unanimously to recommend development and implementation of separate TA teaching evaluations at the end of courses, and to adopt some methods to standardize the use of these evaluations campuswide. As of the June, 2009 CSE meeting, a form had been written and AGS members had provided feedback for it. Currently DUE and TLTCCL are reediting the form, building on AGS survey comments.

II. System-wide Issues/Policies

A. Accountability Standards: Undergraduate Experience and Proficiency

CSE members reviewed the University-wide Indicators for Undergraduate Experience and Proficiency (some examples of the indicators include time spent on research, time spent studying for exams, interaction with professors and other students). First, CSE, like other UCI councils, wanted to know how the statistical averages of these Indicators of Student Experience and Proficiency were computed (i.e., what were the sample sizes and was the weighted average used to calculate the overall UC average?). CSE members also indicated that the questions which measure the degree of participation in research by undergraduates do not appear to capture the actual level of research involvement. According to other data, UCI has the highest degree of research participation among the UC campuses. One member suggested that a general question about whether the student has been involved in his or her own research project be added to this section so that all UC campuses can better showcase undergraduate

critical thinking, logical argumentation, and research skills. CSE members also recommended that a question should be added about the number of hours students work on or off campus. Again, other data indicate that UCI's undergraduate population works significantly more than other UC undergraduates. Degree of employment on and off campus would be a large contributor to the undergraduate experience and would provide some explanation about how students are spending time outside of class and whether more should be done to allow and encourage students to study instead of work.

B. Discussion on Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Criteria for Review

CSE and other councils were charged with proposing criteria for the first stage of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Reaccreditation review. CSE had two comments: First, in order for learning standards and outcomes to be successfully assessed by WASC, UCI needs to have an explicit Mission Statement that is easily spotted and/or easy to find on several UCI websites. Second, with regard to WASC Learning Outcomes, individual departments need to define and promote learning outcomes for majors. The strategic plans for learning outcomes of each major, department and School should be tied into UCI's Mission Statement. Throughout AY09-09, the Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE) assisted departments with design of mission statements and learning outcomes that conform to WASC standards.

C. Blue and Gold Materials, Yudof's Financial Aid Proposal

CSE commented on the proposal which states that all students who are California residents will receive tuition reimbursement if their families earn \$60,000.00 or less. CSE members supported the proposal because it means that families who qualify for this plan will be able to afford UC schools. The plan also has simple clear rules about who qualifies, thus helping families make informed decisions when selecting a college or university. One problem with the proposal, however, is that it is unclear how and why future increases in revenue from tuition costs under this plan, which is allegedly required to maintain the 1100 beneficiaries, are just .7 percent of that revenue. This seems to suggest that fee increases that students will pay will be a lot greater than the increase in aid received. Also, many students who are, in reality, more financially needy than those who qualify for this aid under this plan, will not be able to receive financial aid.

D. Accountability2: Comment on revisions to Accountability1

Earlier in the year, CSE was asked to comment on the Accountability Framework (see II, A above). The Office of the President made revisions to the plan based on feedback from the campuses. CSE reviewed the revisions and had similar comments to those given in November, 2008: CSE had asked for background on how statistical averages used in Indicators for Undergraduate Student Experience (e.g., what were sample sizes and was a weighted average used to calculate the overall UC average). According to the revision there is no evidence that any additional information about sample sizes and weighted averages will be used in Future Indicators. CSE also noted that concerns it has about how much a students participates in research were not addressed in the revisions.

E. Senate review of Furlough Standing Orders of the Regents Amendment and Guidelines:

Like other senate councils, CSE was strongly opposed to the proposal that the President of UC would be able to order furloughs/salary cuts in cases of an emergency. The Standing Order would give too much unchecked authority to the President of UC and would allow for differential treatment within UC campuses. CSE also suggested that if salary cuts were ever necessary, that a more restrained plan opting for five to ten percent salary cuts based on gross pay across the board be used.

III. News from Student Affairs for AY2008-2009

- As reported in Fall, 2008, the 07-08 opening of the Student Center was successful. Rooms for large and small events are available to rent by university and non-university groups. Some have complained about the cost of the rent. As noted in the 07-8 CSE annual report, the Student Center doubled the meeting space on campus. The Student Center also holds more eating vendors, study space, student government office space, a 1000 capacity ballroom (the largest meeting space on campus)
- The Student Executive Officers for 2009-2010 are:
 - Megan Braun, President, ASUCI
 - Jesse Cheng, Executive VP, ASUCI and soon to be UC Student Regent
 - Heaven Holdbrooks, Administrative Affairs, VP, ASUCI
 - Christian Modero, Academic Affairs VP, ASUCI
 - Christian Oto, Student Serves, VP, ASUCI
 - Carrie Carmody, President, AGS
 - Payel Chowdury, VP External, AGS
 - Anessa Stagner, VP Internal Affairs, AGS
 - Christopher Dunkle, VP Administrative Affairs, AGS
 - Adam VanWart, VP, Financial Affairs, AGS
- The Olive Tree Initiative event was a success—80 people attended, and dialogue was courteous. The Olive Tree Initiative was started by a diverse group of UCI students from Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Druze and non-religious backgrounds with varying perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The students were inspired to create a forum where they could discuss and learn about their different perspectives on the situation in Israel/Palestine and to embark on an educational trip to the region.
- Student Affairs is sponsoring a trip to China—this used to be part of the Legends to China program. The trip will help students learn about China and the international global business. Students will meet Chinese faculty, mayors and other distinguished people.
- After 35 years, Dean Sally Peterson, the Dean of Students, has retired.
- UCI Health Education, the Office of the Dean of Students, UCI Police and the Newport Beach Police are piloting a program called Safe Onto Sober (SOS). SOS offers UCI students a safe harbor until they are sober and requires them to participate in mandatory follow-up with UCI Health Education. Students will be assessed a fee to cover basic costs.

IV. New and/or Continuing Business

- A. Follow up on Launch Activities
- B. Monitoring Student Diversity on Campus
- C. Monitor Progress of Simplicity Software program for reporting Academic Dishonesty
- D. Follow up on the effects of tuition increases on students and their parents.

CSE Members

Faculty Members	
Loretta Livingston	Arts
Liane Brouillette	Educations
Cristina Gibson	Business
Andrew Putnam	Chair, Engineering
Joyce Keyak	Health Sciences
Kimberley Lakes	Health Sciences
Gail Hart	Humanities
Lichun Bao	ICS
Fillmore Freeman	Physical Sciences
Ilona Yim	Social Ecology
Belinda Robnett	Social Sciences
Kamal Sadiq	Social Ecology
Ex Officio	
George Tita, (reports quarterly)	Chair, BUSHFA
Sharon Salinger	Dean, DUE
Rudi Berkelhamer	Associate Dean, DUE
Manuel Gomez	VC Student Affairs
Dan Dooros	Assoc. VC Student Affairs
Consultants	
De Gallow	TLTC
Said Shokair	Dir. UROP
Representatives	
Bob Johnson	LAUC-I
Monica Arnold	AGS
Ling Lin	AGS
Tania Asef	ASUCI
Guests & Alternates	
David Snow	Faculty Representative of Athletics
Mike Izzi	Director of Athletics
Paula Smith	Associate Director of Athletics
Dedra Butler	Assistant Director of Athletics

Vanessa Vaughn	Student Athlete
Rod Fleming	Director, Parking and Transportation
Dana Roode	ICS
Elizabeth Bennett	Registrar
Edgar Dormitorio	Office of Judicial Affairs, Office of the Dean of Students
Analyst	
Michelle AuCoin	Council Analyst