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| **WINTER 2007 NEWSLETTER**In my role as Chair Elect, I am sending you the Winter Newsletter from the Academic Senate.  This edition of the Newsletter provides information about the Senate electoral process as well as updates on issues of importance to our campus and to the University as a whole.  In particular, I urge you to acquaint yourself with the section below on “Stratification in the University of California.”  Many in the University, including our Chancellor and Provost, consider this issue to be a grave threat to the cohesiveness of our ten-campus University system.Timothy Bradley Chair Elect of the Academic Senatechaire@uci.edu |

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| [**Stratification of the University of California – A Threat to the Unity of the University**](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue2.htm#Stratification)[**Senate Elections of Officers and Council Members**](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue2.htm#Elections)[**Some Issues Currently Before Councils and Committees of the Senate**](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue2.htm#Someissues)**[Council on Research, Computing and Library Resources](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue2.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22CORCLR)**[**Council on Student Experience**](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue2.htm#CSE)[**Council on Faculty Welfare**](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue2.htm#CFW)[**Council on Planning and Budget**](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/volume3_issue2.htm#CPB)**Stratification of the University of California – A Threat to the Unity of the University**The Regents of the University of California have initiated a policy of differential pay for administrators (Deans and above) on the ten campuses.  This policy dictates a stratification of salaries based on the perceived prestige of the institution, with Berkeley, UCLA and San Diego being in the highest stratum.  This policy dictates that the Dean of Engineering at Berkeley would receive higher pay than, for example, the Dean of Engineering at Davis.  It is our position that this policy inappropriately relegates a subset of the campuses to permanent mediocrity.  Administrators ought to be remunerated on the basis of their expertise and performance, not the campus at which they reside.  In addition, each campus has areas in which they excel, and they should be free to employ their resources to retain that excellence.  The policy of stratification has been strongly opposed by the Executive Vice Chancellors across the system and by the Divisional Chairs of the Academic Senate.  The Cabinet of the UCI Senate has endorsed a resolution opposing stratification.  The Assembly will express its opinion on this issue at its meeting on April 5.  Click [here](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Publications/Newsletters/Endorsed%20Resolution.htm) to see the text of the resolution.**Senate Elections of Officers and Council Members**You should have received an e-mail on January 31 listing the candidates for Chair Elect, Council on Academic Personnel, and Committee on Committees.  These candidates have been selected and vetted by the current membership of the Committee on Committees.  The Senate is accepting additional nominations for these positions until February 15.  The ballots will be finalized after that date and distributed by e-mail to the all Senate members on March 1.  Voting will be by electronic ballot using your UCI Net ID and password.  Paper ballots can be provided by request.  Questions can be addressed to senate@uci.edu.**Some Issues Currently Before Councils and Committees of the Senate****Council on Research, Computing and Library Resources**The Academic Senate Council on Research, Computing, and Library Resources (CORCLR) has announced its call for proposals for the 2006-07 Single lnvestigator Innovation Grants.  These awards support the research and scholarship of Academic Senate members, with an emphasis on recognizing and supporting innovative research projects of exceptional promise.  The Single lnvestigator lnnovation Grants support new research projects of junior faculty, exploratory work by senior investigators that is not currently funded, or meritorious research in areas that do not typically receive external funding.  CORCLR anticipates awarding 5-10 grants to UCI Senate members in amounts up to $10,000, depending on the number and quality of the proposals. Junior faculty are particularly encouraged to apply.  The guidelines and application form are available on [http://www.senate.uci.edu/4\_SenCom/CORCLR/siigpg.htm](http://www.senate.uci.edu/4_SenCom/CORCLR/siigpg.htm%22%20%5Co%20%22http%3A//www.senate.uci.edu/4_SenCom/CORCLR/siigpg.htm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank). CORCLR is also pleased to announce the call for proposals for the 2007-08 Multi-Investigator Faculty Research Grants.  FACULTY FROM ALL DISCIPLINES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.  Teams of two or more UCI Academic Senate members are eligible for support for innovative research projects and pilot studies.  Approximately 6-10 awards will be made up to $25,000 each, depending on the number and quality of the proposals and contingent on the FY 2007-08 budget.Please consult the guidelines, [http://www.senate.uci.edu/4\_SenCom/CORCLR/cormul.htm](http://www.senate.uci.edu/4_SenCom/CORCLR/cormul.htm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), for further information.The deadline for the proposals is May 1, 2007, 5:00 P.M.**UCI Faculty Input Requested for IT Planning**The UC Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunications Policy (ITTP) is soliciting ideas and feedback regarding the major strategic plan being developed at the systemwide level.   The Academic Senate has been asked to respond to a set of questions, and more importantly input its visionary ideas (and major complaints) to this universitywide strategic planning study.  *This is a major opportunity for the Faculty*to affect the strategic direction of the University in its IT resource allocation, budgeting process and in the University's teaching/learning and research mission.The Information Technology Guidance Committee (ITGC) web site has been updated to include a "Provide your input!" page (see upper left corner of page).  Please provide your feedback at:[http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/itgc/](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/itgc/%22%20%5Co%20%22http%3A//www.universityofcalifornia.edu/itgc/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).**Council on Student Experience**In addition to its statutory work reviewing Senate proposals and adjudicating student grievances, CSE works to improve campus quality of life.  Last year CSE spearheaded support to provide lifelong e-mail forwarding to all UCI alumni.  NACS has begun implementing this system which should be in place and operational by spring.  CSE will monitor implementation and features to make it easy for alumni to keep in touch with each other and their alma mater.The EVC and Provost recently endorsed a CSE initiative to improve Aldrich Park as a location for bringing UCI together, without compromising the Park's existing open space or functionality.  The Vice Chancellor of Administrative and Business Services will convene a committee comprising representatives of all campus constituencies, CSE, and the campus architect to propose desirable improvements.  The discussion process is expected to last all year.  Please send CSE (zender@uci.edu) your input and ideas.  As a first step, the EVC and Provost authorized a park coffee cart.Finally, CSE has actively sought to more strategically utilize and plan for campus parking resources. Senate campus parking oversight is being re-organized to facilitate more strategic long range parking plans.  This year, CSE wants to help identify and remediate transportation problems that seem to have no champion, such as integrated planning for bike paths and sidewalks along UCI school and campus boundaries.  Send your suggestions to CSE (srwhite@uci.edu).**Council on Faculty Welfare**This winter, the Council on Faculty Welfare (CFW) is working, locally and systemwide, to encourage UC to promptly restore salary scales that are in line with those of our Comparison 8 institutions and to retain the principle that the same scale applies to every campus.  The fact that UC scales lag so far behind the academic market creates problems for faculty welfare by creating inequities in regard to off-step pay awarded to compensate for the inadequacies of the UC scale.  CFW has also prompted the Senate to engage the administration in a dialogue about how the Irvine Campus Housing Authority serves UCI’s faculty recruitment efforts via the marketing of homes in University Hills.  The ensuing discussions appear to be positive.With other Councils and Committees, CFW is working with the administration to develop more uniform processes for protocol reviews by campus IRBs and IACUCs (Institutional Review Boards and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees) to facilitate research activities both within and across campuses. Finally, CFW is working with the new Special Senate Committee on Diversity to ensure that UCI is on track in regard to implementing the recommendations of the President’s Task Force on Diversity. **Council on Planning and Budget**Members of the Council on Planning an Budget  also serve on the Academic Planning Group (APG).  This latter body is advisory to the EVC and Provost with regard to the assignment of faculty FTE.  In addition, this Fall and Winter APG has been reviewing the Strategic Plans prepared by the Schools.  Comments from APG are intended to provide the Schools with feedback as well as promoting more uniformity in style and substance.  These plans are intended to play a central role in guiding the development of the Schools and Campus, in the assignment of faculty FTE, and in providing guidance to University Advancement in fundraising . |