



▶ VISIT BY UC PRESIDENT
ROBERT DYNES..... 1

○ ISSUE 3 | ○ VOLUME 3 | ○ 2006-2007



▶ TROUBLED STUDENT
FORUM 2



▶ NEWS FROM COUNCILS
AND COMMITTEES 3

Academic *Senate*

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2007

GREETINGS FROM THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

In my role as Chair-Elect, I am sending you the Spring Newsletter from the Academic Senate. This edition of the Newsletter provides updates on several activities of the Senate which are of importance to our campus and to the University as a whole. These include resolutions passed by the Divisional Assembly, approval of new majors, approval of new departments, and actions on a number of issues affecting the academic community and campus life.

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Chair Elect of the Academic Senate
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A Visit to the UCI Campus by President Dynes

UC President Robert Dynes will visit UCI on June 8, 2007. An open forum with the faculty has been scheduled for 10:30 a.m. in the Calit2 Auditorium. All faculty members are cordially invited to meet with President Dynes and hear his response to our questions and input (<http://www.senate.uci.edu>). Questions for President Dynes can be submitted to questions@mail.oaa.uci.edu.

Demonstration for Tolerance – Noon, May 30 Aldrich Park by Main Library

Did you know that some people believe it is unsafe for persons from certain religious groups to even walk around on the UC Irvine campus? You should know that such rumors are being repeated, causing a significant amount of alarm both in Orange County and across the country. The U.S. Civil Rights Commission is investigating UC Irvine and documentary films implying that hate speech is threatening religious students at UC Irvine are being circulated around the world.

It is difficult for those outside of UC Irvine to know what is happening on campus. To demonstrate what we do stand for, the Academic Senate is sponsoring a Demonstration for Tolerance on Wednesday, May 30 at noon. We are inviting all faculty, students and staff to join us in Aldrich Park near the Main Library at noon. We will demonstrate that our campus has tolerance for different spiritual and religious practices, we respect the right of free expression of religion (including no religion), and we will let the world know that not only are students, faculty, and staff of different religions safe on

campus, but they are welcome to practice their religions. We believe that it is time that we, the faculty, let the public know what we do stand for – Stand Together for Tolerance.

Transparent Budget

The Senate has requested and received detailed information regarding the budget of the University of California and UCI. This includes information about support from the State, the distribution of overhead funds, and a transparent budget indicating the distribution of resources across the campus. You will be able to access this information using your UCI net ID at the following URL: http://www.senate.uci.edu/senateweb/faculty_access.asp

Emergency Notification

The campus is reviewing its emergency notification capabilities and plans to add cellular telephone "text messaging" to augment email and other communication methods. In an emergency, multiple modes of communication will need to be used to maximize the effectiveness of getting information out to everyone as soon as possible.

In the next month or so, you will be asked to optionally provide your cellular telephone number for use in emergency notification. NACS will be adding a field for this purpose in the campus online directory, which you will be able to set and maintain as you currently do other directory information. This private data field will not be accessible to others and will only be used in emergency situations and for testing the notification system.

Troubled Student Forum – Monday, May 21 at Noon

A forum designed to provide faculty with information for dealing with and advising troubled students will be convened on Monday, May 21 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Academic Senate Conference Room, on the second floor of Berkeley Place. The panel providing insights and advice will consist of Thomas Parham, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Counseling & Health Services; Sally Peterson, Dean of Students; Paul Henisey, UCI Chief of Police; Alice Wong, Medical Director and Chief of Medical Clinics, Student Health Center; and Edgar Dormitorio, Acting Director of Student Judicial Affairs. All faculty are invited.

New Department of Epidemiology

The first department to be approved in the area of Public Health at UCI was the Department of Epidemiology. This department brings together the expertise of faculty in the fields of cancer and infectious biology, public health, public policy, statistics and toxicology. Approval of Departments involves review by the Council on Educational Policy, Council on the Graduate Council, the Council on Research, Computing & Library Resources, the Council on Planning and Budget, as well as the Senate Cabinet and final approval by the Divisional Assembly.

Funding from Tobacco Companies

On April 5, the Divisional Assembly discussed the Regent's request for Senate action on RE-89, a proposed restriction on research funding from the tobacco industry. A more detailed description of the arguments both pro and con as well as the discussions which occurred at the Divisional Assembly meeting can be accessed at http://www.senate.uci.edu/images/senate_docs/luisa/re%2089%20transmit.pdf. Following spirited discussion, the Divisional Assembly voted 7 yes and 23 no.

Stratification of Salaries at UC

The Winter Newsletter directed your attention to the fact that 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. Many University administrators and faculty see that this policy as a threat to the unity of the University of California as a system of sister campuses. On May 5, the Divisional Assembly voted 27 to 1 to support a resolution opposing stratification. The text of this resolution can be accessed at:

http://www.senate.uci.edu/senateweb/newsletter/winter_2007/Endorsed%20Resolution.htm

Student Fees

The Regents have approved a fee increase of 7% for undergraduate and graduate students, effective Fall 2007. While these fee increases will be an extra burden for our students, they will be mitigated by financial aid to our most needy students. The University estimates that 40% of the undergraduates will not see an increase in fees next year due to this financial aid.

Non-resident tuition for graduate students will not be raised for Fall 2007. In addition, non-resident tuition has been eliminated for a period of three years following advancement to candidacy.

Bicycle Advisory Group

Wendell Brase, Vice Chancellor for Administrative and Business Services has organized a Bicycle Advisory Group to review bicycle commuting on campus. Steven White serves on this group as an Academic Senate representative from the Council on Student Experience.

NEWS FROM THE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Council on Educational Policy

Two new undergraduate majors, a B.A. in Business Administration and a B.S. in Business Information Management, were approved by the Divisional Assembly this year. Proposals for new majors are reviewed by the Council on Educational Policy (CEP), the Graduate Council, the Council on Planning and Budget (CPB), as well as the Cabinet. Final approval resides with the Divisional Assembly.

The B.A. in Business administration, based in the Paul Merage School of Business, will provide students with a multidisciplinary approach to business, including human interaction, ethics and social responsibility, organizational dynamics, cultural differences, and international dynamics. The B.S. in Business Information Management will be provided through the joint efforts of the Paul Merage School of Business and the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Science. This major is designed to train students to perform analyses of computer-based information, and to provide them with technical background, business foundations, and quantitative analysis concepts.

CEP has approved a B.A. in Latin, and a B.A. in Korean Literature and Culture. The B.A. in Latin and the B.A. in Korean Literature and Culture will go to the June Assembly, pending review by CPB and the Cabinet.

CEP's main focus this quarter has been to complete the Proposal for General Education Requirements and to forward it to the Divisional Senate Assembly for the June meeting.

A recent publication by Berkeley's Center for Studies in Higher Education, a panel of University of California faculty and administrators, the Commission on General Education in the 21st Century, has called for renewed attention to general education in research universities, highlighting specific reforms for UC campuses. The report, entitled "General Education in the 21st Century," can be found online and downloaded in its entirety at <http://cshe.berkeley.edu/research/gec/index.htm>.

Council on Research, Computing & Library Resources

CORCLR awarded four Cultural Diversity Studies Faculty Research Grants to Senate faculty. The awards ranged from \$2,000 to \$3,500.

Council on Student Experience

Since Fall, the Council on Student Experience (CSE) has worked on a number of initiatives affecting student life. CSE has recently clarified and streamlined UCI policies governing student grievances and identified ways that undergraduate housing could employ graduate students and researchers as dormitory mentors. Currently CSE is studying how best to maintain and promote a culture of teaching excellence at UCI.

CSE also works hard to improve campus life. This Spring, CSE and Student Affairs are bringing the world to your lunch table by making national periodicals (including the LA Times, NY Times, and Wall Street Journal) available, on a trial basis, for purchase at three campus cafeterias (BC's, Phoenix, Club Med). If the trial works well, this service will continue indefinitely.

Council on Faculty Welfare

The Council on Faculty Welfare (CFW) is setting up meetings with the Irvine Campus Housing Authority (ICHA) to discuss faculty recruitment and retention issues with regard to University Hills. The issue of having a representative of the University Hills Homeowners' Review Board serve on the ICHA Board as a voting member has been transmitted to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost from the Senate.