

## WINTER 2006 NEWSLETTER

This newsletter presents a brief update on items of interest to UCI faculty from the perspective of the Chair Elect of the Academic Senate.

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**Elections**

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- **Elections:** March 1 is the date for the elections to the Academic Senate. Check your e-mail in box for this important vote. Academic Senate members will vote on candidates for the Chair Elect, Committee on Committees, and Council on Academic Personnel. Exercise your right to vote and select the best qualified candidates for these critical positions.
- **Chancellor's Inauguration:** All members of the Academic Senate are invited to take part in the Chancellor's Inauguration on Friday, April 7, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. in the Bren Events Center. This is an opportunity to gather together and look toward the future. The processional will be led by faculty in academic regalia. Faculty will receive their invitations next week. Please return the processional card to request a cap and gown for the event. The RSVP deadline is March 15. For more information, please call 949-824-5111. Come and participate in this unique medieval tradition, and invite your family and friends to the inauguration of UCI's 5th Chancellor.
- **Childcare:** An expanded UCI Infant-Toddler Center opened in January with 14 more spaces. A new facility with room for 36 additional infants/toddlers will open in the fall quarter near the Early Childhood Education Center in Verano. For information and to access the waitlist, contact Childcare Services at <http://www.childcare.uci.edu/>
- **New Degrees, Departments, and Schools:** The Academic Senate approved the following new undergraduate degrees this year: B.S. in Public Health Science and a B.A. in Public Health Policy housed in the School of Social Ecology, and a B.A. in Religious Studies in the School of Humanities. Under Senate review include a B.S. in Microbiology and Immunology, a B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences, and a B.A. in Life Sciences in Biological Sciences; a B.A. in Business Economics and a B.A. in Quantitative Economics in the School of Social Sciences.

Recently approved Graduate Degrees are the M.A. and Ph.D. in Education and a concurrent MS/MURP degree

program in Civil Engineering and Urban & Regional Planning. A proposal for an M.S. and Ph.D. in Statistics is currently under systemwide review.

UCI also endorsed the creation of a Program in Nursing Science within the College of Health Sciences last fall. A proposal for a Department of Chicano/Latino Studies in the School of Social Sciences is currently under review by the Senate.

Karen Merritt from the UC Office of the President has provided the following update regarding the status of the UCI Law School Proposal.

"UC Irvine and UC Riverside have both requested that a final decision be reached on their proposals to establish new law schools. Review of the two proposals was suspended in 2001, owing to fiscal exigency affecting UC's state budgetary support. Before the suspension, the Academic Senate had endorsed both proposals. However, in 2001, the Senate also recommended that the President do a comparative review of the two proposals. Following this advice, the Office of the President is currently consulting with the UC Task Force on Planning for Doctoral and Professional Education's Legal Education Advisory Committee on possible criteria for such a review. The Office of the President is also consulting with the Senate on the review."

- **Goals for Breadth Requirements:** The Council on Educational Policy (CEP) has undertaken the task of proposing a revision of the UCI breadth requirements, in light of the report of the Task Force on Undergraduate Education, and taking into account the comments that CEP solicited last year from the campus at large. CEP decided that it should begin by considering the purposes of breadth requirements, and liberal education in general. At its November meeting it adopted unanimously (with one abstention) a statement of "Goals for Breadth Requirements." The statement can be found on the CEP website [http://www.senate.uci.edu/4\\_SenCom/CEP/CEP.html](http://www.senate.uci.edu/4_SenCom/CEP/CEP.html) under "Educational Policy and Course Guidelines"

CEP is now working on formulating a concrete proposal, guided by the goals statement. The process has been very constructive and CEP hopes to be able to present a proposal for further campus discussion within a few months.

- **Medical Center Report:** The report from the blue ribbon advisory task force to the Chancellor on the liver transplant program at the UCI Medical Center was released on Thursday, February 16. The text of the report can be accessed at [http://www.chancellor.uci.edu/lt\\_committee\\_report.shtml](http://www.chancellor.uci.edu/lt_committee_report.shtml). All faculty were e-mailed an invitation from Academic Senate Chair Ken Janda on Wednesday evening to meet Chancellor Drake on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the Academic Senate assembly room to discuss issues raised in the report. The packed assembly room generated significant critical discussion and reflection.
- **No Fee/Tuition Increases for Undergraduates/Graduates in 2006-2007:** The Governor's budget has provided money to "buy out" the proposed increase in undergraduate and graduate tuition and fees for 2006/2007. If implemented, this would mean that there would be no increase in undergraduate or professional school fees or tuition for next year.
- **UC Families - An Online Newsletter (<http://parents.berkeley.edu/ucfamilies/>):** UC Families is a new online newsletter and resource for faculty, staff and students at University of California campuses who are balancing academic goals or careers with family life. The newsletter works by people posting comments, questions, discussion topics, or current events to the UC Families Moderator (these can be anonymous if desired). The moderator compiles them, along with responses to past postings, sends out a newsletter digest every two weeks or so, and archives past discussions. This approach is based on the highly regarded Berkeley Parents Network (BPN) ( <http://parents.berkeley.edu> ), which has been a growing resource for Bay Area families since 1993, with over 13,000 current subscribers, and 40,000 hits per day on the website.

The UC Families home page provides family resources on UC campuses, UC-wide policy and benefits information, and archives of past advice and discussions. UC Families is a unique opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to post comments and share discussions about addressing their academic work and family experiences, both positive and negative. It can also lead to more awareness of policies and programs, and ultimately further change the culture of the UC system to become more family friendly. Subscribers can post questions or engage in discussions on topics such as managing work and family responsibilities, planning the optimal time to start a family, finding advice on progressing academically as a student parent, returning to academia after having a baby, or advocating for flexible work arrangements.

For a sample newsletter go to: [http://parents.berkeley.edu/ucfamilies/newsletter\\_2005\\_1027.txt](http://parents.berkeley.edu/ucfamilies/newsletter_2005_1027.txt)