

# Academic Senate

## Fall 2022 Newsletter

January 6, 2023

### Inside This Issue

- 1 [Chair Elect Message](#)
- 1 [CAP](#)
- 2 [CEP](#)
- 2 [CEMA](#)
- 3 [CEI](#)
- 3 [CFW](#)
- 4 [CPB](#)
- 5 [CORCL](#)
- 5 [CTLSE](#)
- 6 [GC](#)
- 7 [Save the Date –  
Academic Senate  
2022-23 Distinguished  
Faculty Awards  
Ceremony](#)
- 7 [In Memoriam](#)
- 7 [Review of Divisional  
Items](#)
- 8 [Review of  
Systemwide Items](#)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE CHAIR ELECT

Dear Colleagues:

Greetings from the Divisional Senate and best wishes for the new year.

Fall 2022, which was expected to be a relatively normal quarter after several years of what had felt like crisis after crisis, has been marked by a historic systemwide strike of the Postdoctoral Scholars, Academic Researchers, Graduate Student Researchers, and Academic Student Employees.

Separately from the outcome of the University's negotiations with the four groups, issues that surfaced during the strike raise important questions about the nature of the teaching and research enterprise at UC. At this juncture, it is even more crucial that we maintain the principles of shared governance to ensure that the future of UC will reflect and be guided by faculty perspectives. We are grateful to our colleagues who serve on Academic Senate committees to advance shared governance at the campus and systemwide levels. This newsletter reports on their current activities. I hope that you will read through the reports below.

Arvind Rajaraman, Chair Elect  
Academic Senate, Irvine Division

## ACTIVITIES BY SENATE COUNCILS

### Council on Academic Personnel (CAP)

#### CAP Charge

CAP welcomed four new members to the Council for the 2022-2023 year. CAP's reviews and recommendations are central to the process by which faculty are appointed, advanced within rank, and promoted. In conducting its evaluative reviews, CAP seeks to apply a campus-wide perspective on research, teaching, mentorship, service, and inclusive excellence.

CAP works closely with the Office of Academic Personnel (AP) and the Vice Provost for Academic Personnel to communicate pertinent information about the review process to Deans, Chairs, faculty, and academic personnel processors during information sessions held throughout the year, including regular events such as the [AP Summer Updates](#) session and the [AP Fall Kick-Off](#) as well as school visits, two of which were held this fall. Schools or Dean's offices may request a visit from CAP and AP by contacting the CAP analyst, [Casey Lough](#).

CAP and AP also worked together to provide updated guidance on [Documenting COVID-19 Impact in Merit and Promotion Files](#) and [Guidelines for Merit/Promotion Evaluation for Professors of Teaching](#).

## Council on Educational Policy (CEP)

### **Review of Proposed Senate Regulation 479**

CEP reviewed the [proposed Senate Regulation 479](#), which would create the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) and is based on the longstanding Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC). The Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates designed Cal-GETC in response to Assembly Bill 928, which calls for the establishment of a single lower-division general education pathway that meets the academic requirements for transfer admission from the California Community Colleges to both UC and the California State University (CSU). Cal-GETC aligns UC and CSU transfer requirements without increasing the 34-unit ceiling for the course pattern and will take effect for students entering a community college as of fall 2025. The Council endorsed the proposal to establish a single lower-division general education pathway and the added clarity it will bring to undergraduate education.

### **Upcoming**

In the coming months, CEP will continue discussions regarding Subcommittee on Courses & Continuing, Part-Time, & Summer Session Education guidelines and will consider whether existing guidelines should be updated.

## Council on Enrollment Management and Admissions (CEMA)

### **Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Task Force Report**

CEMA reviewed the [Phase II report](#) released by the Academic Council's Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Task Force analyzing campus ELWR data and providing recommendations for updating Senate Regulation 636, the UC Entry Level Writing Requirement. The Task Force decided to allow each campus to determine its own ELWR policy. As a result, the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) elected to remove the Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) requirement. The report was received positively by CEMA members.

### **Proposed Senate Regulation 479**

CEMA reviewed the [proposed Senate Regulation \(SR\) 479](#), which creates the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC). SR 479 creates a single general education pathway for transfer to California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) from California Community Colleges, which is required by Assembly Bill 928. The Council noted that the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) has been working on this proposal for two years at the systemwide level. CEMA members had no concerns regarding the proposed regulation.

## Council on Equity and Inclusion (CEI)

### Systemwide Reviews

The Council reviewed and commented on several systemwide issues including a [revised draft presidential policy on abusive conduct](#). Members provided feedback about the change from the "reasonable person" standard in the definition of abusive conduct and adoption of the "objectively offensive" standard instead; the lack of central guidance on implementation and examples of how the policy would work at the campuses; and possible confusion about what actions would be covered by this policy versus other policies such as those prohibiting discrimination and the sexual violence/sexual harassment policy. The Council also reviewed and commented on the presidential policy on vaccination programs; however, members learned that [a substantially revised version](#) would be sent in mid-December and they expect to review the revisions at the Council's January meeting. Finally, the Council provided feedback to a systemwide task force on Open Educational Resources.

### Other Updates

Several guests shared updates or consulted with the Council on various issues this fall. Brian Sato, Associate Dean, Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation (DTEI), gave an overview of DTEI resources related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the teaching space. Dr. Theresa Duong, DTEI Pedagogical Wellness Specialist, gave a presentation on the position and the services it provides for faculty. The Council also welcomed Rodrigo Lazo (ex officio), Interim Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, who gave brief updates on several initiatives from the Office of Inclusive Excellence including the Land Acknowledgement Task Force, UCI's SEA Change program, and the Black Thriving Initiative faculty cluster hiring program. Finally, the Council is collaborating this year with the Council on Academic Personnel to develop guidance for faculty on how to report significant "invisible" mentoring in the academic personnel review process.

## Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom (CFW)

### Systemwide Senate Review: Draft Presidential Policy on Abusive Conduct

The Council reviewed a [second draft presidential policy on abusive conduct](#) that covers abusive conduct and retaliation in the workplace. Members noted concern with the policy's provision that individuals are to report abusive conduct to their "manager, any supervisor, or directly to the applicable University office. Chairs and Deans, among others, are considered managers and supervisors." Since many individuals may experience abusive behavior directly from their managers, supervisors, Chair, or Dean, members asked whether there was a more prescribed or "safer" way for individuals to report in such cases. They also questioned what an "applicable University office" was. The Council suggested that any future workgroup reviewing the policy designate an appropriate office.

Members suggested that it would be helpful to include resources for dispute resolution/conflict management for the behavioral examples in the FAQs. The Council would also appreciate more discussion about "third party reporters" since a "reporter" may come from various sources that may or may not be legitimate.

Additionally, members questioned the policy's statement that "managers and supervisors (including, among others, Chairs and Deans) who observe conduct that may constitute abusive conduct have a responsibility to address such conduct immediately." They would like to know what happens if Chairs and Deans do not address an issue. The Council requested that the option to physically separate the parties and change the reporting line from the original policy be reinstated. The Council also requested additional language clarifying how to address power differentials be added, and that the definition of "workplace" be clarified, as university activities are not restricted to offices or labs. Finally, members observed that the reporting system seemed cumbersome.

### **Second Systemwide Review: Draft Revised APM-025 & APM-671**

The Council conducted a second review of [revised APM-025 \(Conflict of Commitment and Outside Activities of Faculty Members\)](#) and [APM-671 \(Conflict of Commitment and Outside Activities of Health Sciences Compensation Plan Participants\)](#); the revisions were meant to address concerns identified during the first systemwide review. CFW members generally agreed that the policies were overreaching, and felt it unlikely that they would be applied equally and consistently. Further, they thought the policy was unclear and may violate labor laws.

The letter from former Academic Council Chair Horowitz spells out quite clearly most of the major problems with the draft. Specifically, it asks UCOP to "provide an analysis of administrative costs and to explore alternative compliance mechanisms that meet minimal federal requirements." Given the budget issues and the diminishing of some academic programs because of budget cuts, the Council agreed that disclosure of administrative costs is important for shared governance. Administrative obstacles to working with "foreign entities" contradicts expectations that faculty have a national and international profile and impact; in most situations this means collaboration and interdisciplinary research.

CFW members were concerned that there was no justification as to why prior approval and annual disclosure of compensated and uncompensated appointments at non-UC institutions are necessary. If an appointment is not approved, for example, then there is nothing to disclose. Members also expressed serious concern that the policies for pre-approval would delay research projects for all faculty and have a negative effect on their merits and promotions. Finally, members questioned how these policies would apply to non-tenured faculty.

### **Upcoming Issues**

The Council will discuss ADA compliance and accessibility in the coming quarters.

## **Council on Planning and Budget (CPB)**

### **Consideration of Budget Principles**

In response to the campus budget situation, CPB is in discussion with Senate leadership and the Provost's Office on ways the Council can more meaningfully engage in the budget planning process. In addition to increased faculty representation on the joint Senate-administration budget workgroup, the Council is in the process of developing guiding principles that the administration should consider when making major budget decisions such as cuts to units. In order to become better informed on the structural deficit, CPB will hear presentations from the Budget Office on the budget procedure, operating budget summaries, and financial modelling.

### Upcoming Issues

The Council will discuss optimal models of developing self-supporting graduate professional degree programs (SSGPDPs), possible ways for SSGPDPs to help with budget crises, how SSGPDPs maintain high quality education, and the appropriate level of oversight needed for such programs.

### Endowed Chairs

CPB endorsed the Carla Liggett & Arthur S. Liggett, M.D. Endowed Chair in Honor of Frank LaFerla in UCI MIND.

## Council on Research, Computing, and Libraries (CORCL)

### CORCL Research & Travel Funds

As a result of the campus budget crisis, CORCL research funds are expected to be cut. The Council has been discussing how best to implement the cuts and whether the existing distribution formula is appropriate. The Council considered its historical practices and the current intent of the funds. For the 2022-23 academic year, CORCL came to consensus that the current fund allocation supports equity and appropriately provides funds for basic costs that would otherwise not be covered. Discussion is ongoing for more strategic use of funds in the future.

### Reviews of ORUs and Campus Centers

CORCL considered the renewal of the Institute for Memory Impairments and Neurological Disorders (UCI MIND).

### Upcoming Issues

CORCL will review a number of campus centers and special research programs including the Center for Asian Studies (CAS); Center for Global Peace & Conflict Studies (CGPCS); Center for Hearing Research (CHR); Center for Organizational Research (COR); Center for the Study of Cannabis (CSC); Center in Law, Society & Culture (CLSC); Epilepsy Research Center (ERC); Long U.S.-China Institute; Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture; UCI Interdisciplinary Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality (ICSSEM); Facility for Imaging and Brain Research (FIBRE); and Networked Assets to Understand Resilience in the Environment (UCI NATURE).

## Council on Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience (CTLSE)

### Proposed Amendment to Senate Regulation 630

Members reviewed a [proposed amendment to Senate Regulation 630](#) proposed by the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) and endorsed by the Academic Council last year.

Members found the proposed amendments confusing and recommended the language and requirements should be clarified. Some members suggested that these amendments be rejected. The supporting documents mention the possibility of online degrees, and the concern over having to amend the regulation in the future. However, if the phrase “unless a different requirement is approved for a

specific degree" is added, it would clarify that degrees with a different requirement for in-person courses could be approved, including fully online degrees. Senate approval would still be required for such a degree. Going forward, a proposed online degree could specifically request and be granted a waiver from this regulation. It would be useful to have the waiver option clarified in the regulation or process documentation so programs understand that the regulation allows for proposal of online degrees.

### **Upcoming Issues**

Later this academic year, the Council will discuss Open Educational Resources and the UROP Annual Report.

## **Graduate Council (GC)**

### **Graduate Education**

Graduate Policies and Procedures – New Policy for Evaluation of Applicants. Graduate Council approved a new policy for evaluating applicants using a transparent admissions process to ensure that all applicants are reviewed equitably. The Council encourages programs to develop diverse communities of graduate scholars. A transparent admissions process and holistic application review assures faculty, Graduate Council, and Graduate Division that all applicants are reviewed equitably.

Systemwide Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration. Graduate students enrolled in academic and professional programs who find it necessary to undertake coursework or research related to their degree program outside of the designated local campus region are eligible for reduced fees. Graduate Council is in the process of defining the local campus region, referring to an area beyond which students have access to substantially fewer campus resources, including instructional, laboratory and library resources, advising, and student services. The region may be defined by country or miles but must be clearly articulated and applied equitably.

Unpublished Electives. Some programs do not include a list of elective courses in the General Catalogue. Graduate Council requested that they eliminate this practice. Programs provided the requested information to be included in the next Catalogue.

Posthumous Doctoral Degree from Visual Studies Program. Graduate Council awarded a posthumous Ph.D. in Visual Studies in recognition of the outstanding work of a former student.

### **New Program in Law and Graduate Studies**

- Concurrent J.D./Ph.D. in Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy

### **Academic Program Review**

- School of Social Sciences Year 1 Follow-Up
- School of Biological Sciences Year 4 Follow-Up
- School of Business Year 7 Follow-Up

## SENATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Save the Date – Academic Senate 2022-23 Distinguished Faculty Awards Ceremony

We hope you can join us for the [2022-23 Distinguished Faculty Awards Ceremony](#) on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Newkirk Alumni Center. The awards ceremony will be followed by a reception. Invitation and RSVP information to follow. If you have any questions about the event, please contact [senate@uci.edu](mailto:senate@uci.edu).

### In Memoriam

If you would like to submit an In Memoriam resolution, or if you have any questions about the process, please contact [Christine Aguilar](#). You may also visit the Academic Senate [In Memoriam webpage](#) for more information.

## IRVINE DIVISION BUSINESS

### Review of Irvine Division Bylaws, Regulations and Appendices

- **Approved revisions to [Irvine Bylaw 48: Council on Academic Personnel](#) (Cabinet 10/18/22, Assembly 12/1/22)**

#### Irvine Bylaw 48: Council on Academic Personnel

The changes maintain the integrity of the council and the academic review process and prevent conflict of interest by codifying that equity advisors may not serve on the council.

- **Approved revisions to [Irvine Bylaw 28: Responsibilities and Functions](#) (Cabinet 12/6/22)**

#### Irvine Bylaw 28: Responsibilities and Functions

The changes bring Bylaw 28 in line with last year's changes to Bylaw 175: Modification of Legislation, making modifications to legislation effective immediately upon approval by the Division or Divisional Senate Assembly unless an alternate date of implementation is approved.

- **Approved revisions to [Irvine Bylaw 158: Call for a Meeting](#) and [Irvine Bylaw 160: Minutes of a Meeting](#) (Cabinet 12/6/22)**

#### Irvine Bylaw 158: Call for a Meeting and 160: Minutes of a Meeting

The changes align Bylaws 158 and 160 with procedural changes made last year and codify the process of delegating approval of the final Assembly meeting minutes of the year to Cabinet.

- **Approved revisions to [Irvine Bylaw 99: Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom](#) (Cabinet 12/6/22)**

#### Irvine Bylaw 99: Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom

The changes eliminate subcommittees within CFW.

- Approved revisions to [Irvine Regulation 918: Candidacy Committee](#) (Cabinet 6/21/22, Assembly 12/1/22)

Irvine Regulation 918: Candidacy Committee

The changes reduce the required number of members on candidacy committees and relax the eligibility requirements of outside members.

## SYSTEMWIDE BUSINESS

### Irvine Review of Proposed Revisions to the APM, Bylaws, Regulations and Appendices

#### REVIEWED AT SENATE CABINET LEVEL:

- Forwarded comments as part of the [Second Systemwide Review of Draft Presidential Policy – Abusive Conduct in the Workplace](#)
  - Reviewed at the council level by CPT, CEI, and CFW
- Forwarded comments as part of the [Second Systemwide Review of Proposed Revisions to APM - 025 and APM - 671](#)
  - Reviewed at the council level by CFW and CPB
- Forwarded comments as part of the [Systemwide Review of Proposed Amendment to Senate Regulation 630](#)
  - Reviewed at the council level by CEP and CTLSE
- Forwarded comments as part of the [Systemwide Review of Proposed Senate Regulation 479](#)
  - Reviewed at the council level by CEMA and CEP
- Forwarded comments as part of the [Systemwide Review of the ELWR Task Force Report and Recommendations](#)
  - Reviewed at the council level by CEMA, CEP, and CPB

The Academic Senate Newsletter is published quarterly during the academic year by the UCI Academic Senate to inform UCI faculty about the activities of the Senate.

Your comments are welcome: [senate@uci.edu](mailto:senate@uci.edu).

Arvind Rajaraman, 2022-2023 Chair Elect  
Academic Senate, Irvine Division

Christine Aguilar, Editor

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