

Academic Senate

Spring 2023 Newsletter

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Inside This Issue

- 1 [Chair Elect Message](#)
- 1 [CAP](#)
- 2 [CEP](#)
- 3 [CEMA](#)
- 3 [CEI](#)
- 4 [CFW](#)
- 4 [CPB](#)
- 5 [CORCL](#)
- 5 [CTLSE](#)
- 6 [GC](#)
- 7 [2023 Senate Special Election Results](#)
- 7 [2023-24 Academic Senate Distinguished Faculty Award Recipients](#)
- 8 [In Memoriam](#)
- 9 [Senate Service Interest Survey for 2024-25 Now Open](#)
- 9 [Review of Divisional Items](#)
- 9 [Review of Systemwide Items](#)

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE CHAIR ELECT

Dear Colleagues:

This has been an eventful year for UC Irvine and the Academic Senate.

One of the most important events that occurred over the past year was a historic systemwide strike of the Academic Student Employees, Graduate Student Researchers, Postdoctoral Scholars, and Academic Researchers, resulting in a set of new contracts between these groups and the University of California. These contracts and the issues that precipitated the strike raise important questions about academic and research work at UC. The Academic Senate at UCI set up a task force to examine these questions, and its report has been released to Senate faculty. While the questions will continue to be addressed in the future, the task force recommendations are an important first step in reimagining many aspects of the teaching and research enterprise.

In addition, as part of its regular work, the Academic Senate reviewed many new courses, programs, and policies, including several reviews of self-supporting programs. I encourage you to read the report below to learn the details of these activities.

Arvind Rajaraman, Chair Elect
Academic Senate, Irvine Division

ACTIVITIES BY SENATE COUNCILS

Council on Academic Personnel (CAP)

Updates

CAP met regularly to ensure the timely review of faculty personnel files and to make progress on other important initiatives, in partnership with the Office of Academic Personnel and the Academic Senate, including:

- Clarified the guidelines for departmental review of normal merits to provide increased flexibility, including removal of the requirement for a full department discussion of the case.
- Reviewed and endorsed Professor of Teaching guidelines for merits and promotions submitted by 14 schools and programs, as a part of a campuswide initiative (see [here](#)).
- Provided guidance for faculty to document informal, or “invisible,” mentoring in their academic review file.

- Provided guidance for the review of academic personnel negatively affected by the academic employee strike (see [here](#)).
- Updated and clarified the actions and expectations for above-scale merits.
- Developed guidelines for the academic review of full-time faculty administrators with underlying professorial appointments.
- Co-hosted campuswide Senate faculty workshops for assistant professors ([slides](#) and [resources](#)) and associate professors ([slides](#)) to improve understanding and transparency of the review process and address any challenges.

We thank the CAP members whose terms end this year. They have worked with more diligence and effort than most faculty realize; in doing so, they have formed a real community of colleagues and friends. They will be missed. Fortunately, a new, confidence-inspiring set of faculty has been elected to take their place next fall. On behalf of the returning CAP members, we welcome the new members. CAP is a labor-intensive committee, but it is also one of the most significant and rewarding service opportunities at UCI.

Updated CAP FAQ and Upcoming Events

CAP has updated its FAQ page, and will do so each summer. See the new FAQs [here](#).

In order to provide schools and departments with the latest information for the 2023-2024 review cycle, CAP and AP hosted a Summer Updates presentation on June 28 via Zoom for deans, associate deans, chairs, and CPOs. CAP and AP will continue to co-host their regular Fall Kick-Off: Academic Personnel Review Process meeting this year on Wednesday, September 20 from 10:00-11:30am via Zoom for Senate faculty, deans, associate deans, chairs, and CPOs.

Council on Educational Policy (CEP)

Addition to UCI Requirements for a Bachelor's Degree

The Assembly of the Academic Senate recently [approved revisions to Senate Regulations 610 and 630](#), updating the residency prerequisite for an undergraduate bachelor's degree. The revisions add a new Regulation 630.E, defining a campus experience requirement that requires freshman and transfer undergraduates to complete a minimum of six units of in-person courses per quarter for three quarters. As a follow-on to the systemwide revisions, CEP approved a requirement that fifty percent or more of the total quarter units earned at UCI before graduation must be through courses that are not designated as online or mixed modality by the University Registrar, unless exceptions have been granted to a degree program. The requirement draws from definitions grounded in the rules of UC's accreditor, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), as well as minimum engagement requirements for federal financial aid.

Spring Program Modifications and Elimination of Unpublished Undergraduate Electives

In addition, CEP reviewed and approved undergraduate program modifications, reviewed and approved Subcommittee on Courses & Continuing, Part-Time, & Summer Session Education guidelines, and completed its project to ensure all undergraduate degree programs publish their electives in the General Catalogue.

Council on Enrollment Management and Admissions (CEMA)

Drama Department Proposal for Portfolio Review

CEMA reviewed a proposal from the Drama Department to create an optional audition/portfolio mechanism for admissions. The portfolio review would allow faculty to identify applicants with exceptional artistic ability who meet minimum eligibility requirements of UC but are not selected for admission to UCI. The Drama Department is hoping this mechanism will provide greater opportunities for underrepresented students who have been impacted by defunding of the arts in public schools. Other departments in the School of the Arts have already successfully implemented portfolio review mechanisms. CEMA members were in favor of the proposal.

Area C: Mathematics Requirement Concerns

The Council discussed issues relating to recent changes to the Area C requirement, allowing alternative paths to fulfill the third-year mathematics requirement. Representatives across UC campuses have expressed concern that one of these alternative courses is not adequately preparing incoming students, particularly those entering STEM majors. CEMA members submitted a letter to the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) listing their concerns. BOARS is evaluating the issue and possible solutions. BOARS will continue to discuss the issue next year and work with divisional representatives systemwide to determine a course of action.

Council on Equity and Inclusion (CEI)

Informal/Invisible Mentoring Guidance

CEI collaborated with the Council on Academic Personnel (CAP) this year to develop guidance for faculty on reporting informal/invisible mentoring in the academic personnel review process. CEI and CAP recognize that, in addition to formal mentoring, faculty may be engaged in significant and ongoing informal, or "invisible," mentoring to support undergraduate students, graduate students, and early-career or other faculty who may be experiencing academic, career, or personal challenges and seek out additional support. The forthcoming guidance will clarify how faculty can include not only formal mentoring activities but also significant informal/invisible mentoring activities in their merit and promotion files.

Other Issues

Disability Management Specialist Wendy Pawling provided members with an overview of the services and support she provides for faculty and staff who need accommodations for temporary or permanent disabilities, as well as the laws and policies that govern reasonable accommodations and the interactive process. She also gave several examples of common accommodations and clarified misunderstandings about accommodations related to COVID-19.

Interim Vice Chancellor (IVC) for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Rodrigo Lazo (ex officio) continued to give monthly updates on Office of Inclusive Excellence (OIE) activities and initiatives, including OIE's marquee programs – the Equity Advisor Program and DECADE – as well as the efforts of a campus land acknowledgement task force. Members have appreciated IVC Lazo's engagement with the Council this year and look forward to welcoming Vice Chancellor Bergeron next year.

Finally, the Council reviewed and commented on the [Proposed Presidential Policy on Anti-Discrimination](#) and proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Responding to Immigration Enforcement Issues Involving Patients in UC Health Facilities. At the division level, the Council reviewed and provided feedback on diversity plans for the proposed School of Population and Public Health and the Master of Education Sciences with a Concentration in Learning Analytics proposed by the School of Education.

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

Faculty Mental Health and Support Services

Negar Shekarabi, Psy.D., Coordinator of Faculty & Staff Support Services, presented CFW with updates on faculty mental health on campus, including trends and support services. The Faculty & Staff Support Services Office provides robust clinical and supportive services for UCI and UCI Health employees and includes Faculty and Staff Mental Health Care and Complainant Support Services.

The Office complements the resources available to employees through the Life Resources Program (formerly Employee Assistance Program), medical plan benefits, and other campus support services. Specific services include individual problem assessment, campus and community referrals, critical incident and crisis intervention, and individual and group consultation. Complainant Support Services assists faculty and staff who have brought or may desire to bring forth complaints of alleged conduct that violates the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment. Specific services include serving as a liaison, campus or community referrals, and investigation and accompaniment.

At its inception in 2016, the Office served mostly main campus staff. However, there has been an increasing number of UCI Health staff and faculty utilizing its services. The majority of services utilized are wellbeing sessions, psychological assessments, and individual therapy. Mental health programs and training opportunities include mental health first aid, wellbeing sessions, faculty webinars, and an interactive screening program.

The Council expressed some concern that the office has only one FTE at this time. As the need for and use of services increases, there will most likely be a need for additional staff in the future.

Proposed Revisions to APM-210, Review and Appraisal Committees

The Council reviewed proposed revisions to [APM-210, Review and Appraisal Committees](#). The proposed revisions include the addition of mentoring to criteria and assessment, revisions to evaluation and evidence of teaching and mentoring effectiveness, contributions to diversity, equity, inclusion, and equal opportunity for policy-covered librarians, minor additions of numbering for clarity, and technical revisions for grammatical consistency.

Some members noted there were many statements throughout the policy indicating department chair responsibilities in writing candidate letters. However, according to UCI's Office of Academic Personnel, a chair's letter is optional. The systemwide policy seems to indicate the chair's letter is required. This should be clarified in the policy.

Council on Planning and Budget (CPB)

Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-43 Purchases of Goods and Services; Supply Chain Management

Having previously reviewed this [policy](#) in February 2021, the Council observed that the proposed revisions inadequately addressed its concerns. CPB found that justification for the policy remains unconvincing. Absent an appropriate cost analysis, there was insufficient reason for the UC to distort

its purchasing practices and impose additional burden on faculty. The Council also noted that the policy text remains overly complicated which will likely make compliance and implementation difficult.

Upcoming Issues

CPB will consider best practices for more effective Senate involvement in university activity. The Council will discuss how similar councils across the UC operate including how CPB members are trained, what information is shared, and how involved councils are with faculty executive committees. The hope is to empower the Council to have more meaningful participation in shared governance.

Endowed Chair

Dr. Lionel and Fay Ng Dean's Chair in Biological Sciences

Council on Research, Computing, and Libraries (CORCL)

Presidential Policy on Inventions, Patents, and Innovation Transfer

The Council discussed [proposed revisions to the systemwide Presidential Policy on Inventions, Patents, and Innovation Transfer](#). CORCL highlighted language in need of clarification and expressed concern that the implications of the revisions are unclear. The Council observed that the proposed removal of certain provisions, the allocation of 15% of net royalties for research related purposes to the inventor's campus and the first consideration for disposition of net income to the University from patents shall be given to the support of research, could potentially be problematic. Members also noted that it is unclear if key stakeholders like UCI's Beall Applied Innovation and faculty involved in tech commercialization were appropriately consulted. CORCL advised more targeted solicitation for policy feedback.

Upcoming Issues

CORCL will continue its review of the renewal of the Center for the Study of Cannabis for campus center designation and consider developing guidelines for ORU and campus center renewal applications.

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

Proposed Presidential Policy – Interim Clery Act Policy

CTLSE reviewed the [Interim Clery Act Policy – Campus Safety and Security Reporting](#) prior to its finalization.

The Council affirmed the comments from the Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom (CFW), specifically regarding the definition of a "hate crime." Members recommended that additional clarity be provided regarding reporting guidelines and roles. Members expressed concern regarding when specific alerts or announcements are disseminated to campus constituents versus when they are not, as there seem to be more incidents in the Annual Security Report than number of announcements throughout the year. It would be helpful to get clarification on what prompts an alert or incident announcement to campus.

Celebration of Teaching

UCI's Celebration of Teaching recognizes the faculty, instructors, and teaching assistants who have demonstrated excellence in undergraduate teaching at UC Irvine. Nominated by peers, students, and staff, award winners exemplify exceptional teaching across six award categories.

CTLSE members reviewed 85 award nominations. The Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation (DTEI) is experimenting with the Celebration of Teaching date this year. There is usually a Teach Week or Teach Day accompanying the awards celebration. This year, Teach Day will be September 21 with the Celebration of Teaching to follow.

Graduate Council (GC)

Graduate Education

Graduate Policies and Procedures – Academic Disqualification Policy. Graduate Council approved revisions to the academic disqualification policy to reflect the associate dean's signature on the recommendation for disqualification, in accordance with current practice and for clarity and consistency.

Systemwide Standard Terminology for Distance Courses. Graduate Council adopted the systemwide terminology developed by CCGA and UCEP to serve as definitions and guidelines for new courses. Distance education is a mode of instruction in which some or all students are physically separated from the instructor. Federal regulations and WSCUC/WASC require distance education courses to offer faculty-initiated regular and substantive interaction between students and instructors.

SSGPDP Students Serving as TAs. The Graduate Division reported on the third year implementation of a three-year pilot program that allows SSGPDP students to serve as TAs. The Paul Merage School of Business, the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences, and the School of Social Ecology participated in the program. The implementation was deemed appropriate and in compliance with Graduate Council's guidelines.

Time to Advancement and Time to Degree for MFA and Ph.D. Programs. Graduate Council reviewed data on actual time to advancement and time to degree for MFA and doctoral programs and the percentage of students in each MFA and doctoral program that are beyond normative time to advancement and beyond time to degree. The Council will monitor the data on an annual basis to advise programs that may need to update their normative time to degree.

Subcommittee on International Education (SCIE). Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the disestablishment of SCIE, following one year of dormancy. Action items formerly routed to SCIE will be routed to Graduate Council and/or CEP as appropriate.

Discontinuance of Graduate Degree Programs

- Ph.D. in Social Ecology Core

New Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Program (SSGPDP)

- Master of Education Sciences with Concentration in Learning Analytics

SSGPDP Three-Year Reviews

- Master of Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Master of Software Engineering
- Doctor of Nursing Practice

SSGPDP Continuing Reviews

- Master of Embedded and Cyber-Physical Systems
- Master of Laws
- Master of Science in Pharmacology
- Master of Legal and Forensic Psychology

Academic Program Review

- Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences

New School

- School of Population and Public Health

SENATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023 Academic Senate Special Election Results

The Irvine Division of the Academic Senate held a special election from June 21-July 5, 2023 to fill a vacancy from the School of Humanities on the Council on Academic Personnel. Please see the election results [here](#).

2023-24 Academic Senate Distinguished Faculty Award Recipients

The Academic Senate is pleased to announce the [recipients of the 2023-24 Distinguished Faculty Awards](#). These awards are given to Senate members who have achieved excellence through their activities in research, teaching, mentorship, and service. The recipients of the Academic Senate Distinguished Faculty Awards are selected by the Committee on Scholarly Honors and Awards. The awards will be presented at the Distinguished Faculty Awards Event scheduled to take place in Winter 2024.

Distinguished Senior Faculty Award for Research
Distinguished Professor Krzysztof Palczewski
Department of Ophthalmology

Distinguished Mid-Career Faculty Award for Research
Professor Kristin Turney
Department of Sociology

Distinguished Early-Career Faculty Award for Research
Assistant Professor Stephanie Sallum
Department of Physics and Astronomy

Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching
Professor Jayne Lewis
Department of English

Distinguished Early-Career Faculty Award for Teaching
Assistant Professor of Teaching Joel Lanning
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Daniel G. Aldrich, Jr. Distinguished University Service Award
Distinguished Professor Julia Lupton
Department of English

Distinguished Mid-Career Faculty Award for Service
Professor Stephanie Reich
School of Education

Distinguished Faculty Award for Mentorship
Professor Michael Yassa
Department of Neurobiology and Behavior

Academic Senate – Better World Award*
Professor in Residence Philip Felgner
Department of Physiology and Biophysics

Academic Senate – Better World Award*
Dean Frank LaFerla
School of Biological Sciences

**Two faculty members were awarded the 2023-24 Academic Senate – Better World Award.*

In Memoriam

The following In Memoriam resolutions were presented at the June 1, 2023 meeting of the Divisional Senate Assembly:

- Ahmad, Aijaz (1941-2022)
- Berns, Michael (1942-2022)
- Nelson, Keith (1932-2022)
- Rodriguez, Jaime (1940-2022)
- Rosener, Judy (1929-2022)

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.

Senate Service Interest Survey for 2024-25 Now Open

Faculty service on the Academic Senate is a critical part of shared governance at the University of California. The Academic Senate welcomes participation by all Senate faculty, and values the scholarly expertise, perspectives, and experiences that our diverse faculty bring to their Senate service.

The Committee on Committees uses responses to the Senate Interest Survey to help identify potential nominees for vacant positions. Senate members may identify their interest in running for Academic Senate Chair Elect-Secretary and Chair, in addition to noting their interest in serving on Senate councils, committees, subcommittees, and boards. Please take a moment to complete the [Senate Service Interest Survey for 2024-25](#) now available online.

IRVINE DIVISION BUSINESS

Review of Irvine Division Bylaws, Regulations and Appendices

- **Approved revisions to [Appendix II of the Manual of the Irvine Division of the Academic Senate](#) (Cabinet 4/18/23)**
 - The revisions eliminated language around the respondent bearing the burden of proof, as well as the formal hearing requirement for adjudicating grade appeal cases. The changes reflected broad feedback and legal counsel review.
- **Approved revisions to [Irvine Bylaw 36: Student Participation on Committees](#), [Irvine Bylaw 85: Educational Policy \(Undergraduate\)](#), [Council on](#), and [Irvine Bylaw 100: Graduate Council](#) (Cabinet 5/2/23, Assembly 6/1/23)**
 - The revisions disestablish the Subcommittee on International Education (SCIE).
- **Approved revisions to [Irvine Regulation 510: American History and Institutions](#) (Cabinet 3/21/23, Assembly 5/4/23)**
 - The changes align Irvine Regulation 510 with revisions made to Passed/Not Passed grading approved last year.

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 Systemwide Review of the [Draft Presidential Policy on Anti-Discrimination](#)**
 - Reviewed at the council level by CPT, CEI, CFW, and CTLSE
- **Forwarded comments as part of the [Systemwide Review of Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-43 Purchases of Goods and Services: Supply Chain Management](#)**
 - Reviewed at the council level by CPB

- Forwarded comments as part of the [Systemwide Review of Proposed Revisions to the Presidential Policy on Inventions, Patents, and Innovation Transfer](#)
 - Reviewed at the council level by CORCL and CPB
- Forwarded comments as part of the [Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy – Clery Act](#)
 - Reviewed at the council level by CFW and CTLSE
- Forwarded comments as part of the [Systemwide Review of Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy – Immigration Enforcement Issues at UC Health Facilities](#)
 - Reviewed at the council level by CEI and CFW
- Forwarded comments as part of the [Systemwide Review of Proposed Revisions to APM-210, Review and Appraisal Committees](#)
 - Reviewed at the council level by CFW and CAP
- Forwarded comments as part of the [Systemwide Review of Proposed Revisions to APM-710, Leaves of Absence/Sick Leave/Medical Leave](#)
 - Reviewed at the council level by CFW

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.

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

Christine Aguilar, Editor

For an archive of Senate Newsletters, please visit: <https://senate.uci.edu/newsletters/>.