

## **Irvine Division of the Academic Senate Annual Report 2022-23**

### **Chair's Message**

Although COVID concerns ramped down during the first half of 2022, the last academic year has been quite tumultuous.

First came the realization that UCI's core budget was in worse shape than expected; this led to difficult discussions about budget cuts and strategic planning. The Senate's role in these discussions was only advisory. However, the Senate did get some clarity on what happened, and successfully advocated for more input on budget matters via the Provost's budget work group and the Senate's Council on Planning and Budget. Incidentally, the Senate also had to manage three successive cuts to its own budget, by 2%, 3% and 4%, starting in 2021-22.

Next came the strikes and new contracts for graduate student researchers, academic student employees, postdoctoral scholars, and academic researchers. The Senate and UCI's administration worked well together during the strike, but I was often frustrated by the lack of useful communication from the systemwide administration. In particular, there was – and continues to be – little central guidance on the future of graduate education at UC. To help mitigate this problem, the Senate quickly convened a task force, which has already released its findings and a concrete set of recommendations. I personally thank all the task force members who worked so hard on this report; may it stimulate others to pick up the ball!

Of course, the Senate continued to conduct its regular business. Most of that is listed below, but some activities deserve highlighting. Specifically, the Council on Educational Policy developed new policies defining mixed modality courses and stipulating that students can take no more than 50% of their courses online to earn a bachelor's degree at UCI. The Graduate Council proposed a change to Irvine Regulation 918 to offer more flexibility in the candidacy committee membership, and expanded its existing guidance to help faculty prepare syllabi for graduate research courses so that they focus solely on students' academic work; the latter continues to be a perplexing challenge, which will require a lengthy period of adjustment for students and faculty alike. The Council on Academic Personnel helped all 14 schools finalize school-specific guidelines regarding the evaluation of Professors of Teaching; it also developed faculty guidance on the reporting and consideration of COVID- and strike-related impacts and the inclusion of informal mentoring in personnel reviews. The Council on Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience, meanwhile, collaborated with the Senate's Executive Director to revise the grade appeals process; this revision should ensure a process that is less confrontational and fairer for both parties. Finally, a special Senate committee worked to streamline the process of academic program review; the relevant councils and Senate Cabinet will review the committee's recommendations this fall.

In addition, the Senate worked together with the administration on two workgroups that were asked to make recommendations regarding the future of online education at UCI, and student socialization and wellness. Both workgroups have issued their reports and look forward to the Provost's response.

Although there is much to be happy about in the following report, it is clear that our faculty are unusually stressed, if not disillusioned. The pandemic required them to make enormous adjustments, and the budget crisis and the problems raised by the strikes raised serious questions

about the degree to which the institution “has the faculty’s back.” Our divisional administration is well aware of this problem, and I have been raising the issue at the systemwide level as well. Given this high level of faculty frustration, it may be tempting to withdraw from university service. Please don’t! Shared governance remains as essential as ever. Therefore, I am profoundly grateful to all who participated in Senate service last year. I also thank UCI’s administrative team for their collaborative spirit. Ultimately, we’re all on the same side!

Georg Striedter  
Chair, 2022-23  
Academic Senate, Irvine Division

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Cabinet and Assembly Activities**

### **Undergraduate Programs**

- Approved discontinuance of B.A. in Environmental Science (12/6/22)

### **Graduate Programs**

- Approved discontinuance of M.S. and Ph.D. in Information and Computer Science (3/21/23)
- Approved discontinuance of Master of Science in Engineering Management (3/21/23)
- Approved discontinuance of core Ph.D. program in Social Ecology (4/18/23)

### **Endowed Chairs**

- Endorsed the Carla Liggett and Arthur S. Liggett, M.D. Endowed Chair in Honor of Frank M. LaFerla in UCI MIND (10/18/22)
- Endorsed the Dr. Lionel and Fay Ng Dean’s Chair in Biological Sciences (6/20/23)

### **Systemwide Reviews**

- Submitted comments on draft Presidential Policy on Abusive Conduct (10/18/22)
- Submitted comments on draft revised APM-025 & APM-671 (10/18/22)
- Submitted comments on proposed Senate Regulation (SR) 479: California General Education Transfer Curriculum (11/1/22)
- Submitted comments on Entry Level Writing Requirement Task Force Report and Recommendations (11/1/22)
- Submitted comments on proposed amendment to SR 630 (11/1/22)
- Submitted comments on Presidential Policy on Vaccination Programs (1/17/23)
- Submitted comments on proposed revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices (1/17/23)
- Submitted comments on proposed revisions to Presidential Policy on Developing and Maintaining Presidential Policies (1/17/23)
- Submitted comments on proposed conforming amendments to Senate regulations on admission (3/21/23)
- Submitted comments on proposed Presidential Policy on Anti-Discrimination (4/18/23)
- Submitted comments on proposed revisions to Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-43 (4/18/23)
- Submitted comments on proposed revisions to Presidential Policy on Responding to

- Immigration Enforcement Issues Involving Patients in UC Health Facilities (5/16/23)
- Submitted comments on proposed revisions to Presidential Policy on Inventions, Patents, and Innovation Transfer (5/16/23)
- Submitted comments on Proposed Presidential Policy – Interim Clery Act Policy (5/16/23)
- Submitted comments on proposed revisions to APM-210 (6/20/23)
- Submitted comments on proposed revisions to APM-710 (6/20/23)

### **Divisional Bylaws, Regulations, and Appendices**

*All of the revisions listed received approval from the Committee on Rules & Jurisdiction.*

- Approved revisions to Irvine Bylaw (IBL) 48: Council on Academic Personnel (10/18/22) (12/1/22)
- Approved revisions to Irvine Regulation (IR) 918: Candidacy Committee (12/1/22)
- Approved revisions to IBL 28: Responsibilities and Functions (12/6/22) (3/9/23)
- Approved revisions to IBL 158: Call for a Meeting and 160: Minutes of a Meeting (12/6/22) (3/9/23)
- Approved revisions to IBL 99: Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom (12/6/22) (3/9/23)
- Approved Revisions to IR 510: American History and Institutions (3/21/23) (5/4/23)
- Approved Revisions to Appendix II (Grade Appeals) of the Manual of the Irvine Division of the Academic Senate (4/18/23)
- Approved Disestablishment of the Subcommittee on International Education (Revisions to IBLs 36, 85, and 100) (5/2/23) (6/1/23)

### **Campus Reviews**

- Provided feedback on UCI's Institutional Report for the WSCUC Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation (11/1/22)
- Provided feedback on removal of a campus plaque dedicated to Junipero Serra (12/6/22)
- Provided feedback on a draft of campus budget principles (2/7/23)

### **Senate Policies and Procedures**

- Endorsed revisions to Guiding Principles and Best Practices for Faculty Involvement in Dean Search and Review Committees (6/20/23)

### **Self-Supporting Graduate and Professional Degree Program (SSGPDP) Reviews**

- Endorsed Graduate Council (GC)/Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) Subcommittee three-year reviews of the Master of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Master of Software Engineering, and Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Endorsed GC/CPB Subcommittee follow-up reviews of the Master of Embedded and Cyber-physical Systems, Master of Laws, Master of Science in Pharmacology, and Master of Legal and Forensic Psychology

## **Presentations**

- Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Hal Stern shared general campus updates (11/1/22) (12/1/22) (3/21/23) (5/16/23)
- Associate Vice Provost for Academic Planning Paul Kang gave an overview of WSCUC site visit expectations (2/7/23)
- Mike Mulligan, Chair of the Senate Task Force on Adjusting to New Labor Agreements, presented the task force's charge and its final report and recommendations (3/7/23) (6/20/23)
- Systemwide Senate Chair Susan Cochran and Vice Chair Jim Steintrager gave an overview of systemwide Senate priorities and shared governance (3/9/23)
- Chancellor Howard Gillman gave an overview of campus strategic priorities (5/4/23)
- Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate Division Gillian Hayes gave an update on graduate admissions (5/4/23)
- Bryan Jue, Senior Director of Outreach and Communications, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, gave an overview of the Fall 2023 admissions cycle (6/1/23)

## **Miscellaneous**

- WSCUC Site Visit – Reaffirmation of Accreditation: Senate Cabinet and other Senate representatives met with review team members (various meetings from 2/15/23-2/17/23)

## **Other Senate Activities**

*The following summarizes other Divisional Senate activities that took place during 2022-23.*

### **Academic Personnel**

- Council on Academic Personnel (CAP)
  - Reviewed 425 cases over 34 meetings
  - Together with the Office of Academic Personnel, provided updated guidance on [Documenting COVID-19 Impact in Merit and Promotion Files](#) and [Guidelines for Merit/Promotion Evaluation for Professors of Teaching](#)

### **Academic Program Review**

- Academic Program Review Board (APRB)
  - Conducted review of the Donald Bren School of Information & Computer Sciences
  - Completed one-year follow-up review of the School of Social Sciences, four-year follow-up review of the School of Biological Sciences, and seven-year follow-up review of The Paul Merage School of Business

### **Collaborations with the Administration**

- Senate Leadership and Provost Town Hall (2/23/23)
- Academic Planning Group (APG) Workgroups
  - Online Education
  - Addressing Student Socialization and Mental Health

### **Events**

- FEC Chair Meetings with Senate Leadership (11/14/22) (2/6/23) (4/28/23)
- Senate Chair Office Hours for Senate Faculty (1/31/23) (2/9/23) (2/14/23)
- Academic Senate Distinguished Faculty Awards (3/1/23)

**Research Center and Institute Reviews**

- Center for Global Peace & Conflict Studies
- Center for Hearing Research
- Center for Organizational Research
- Epilepsy Research Center
- Long U.S.-China Institute
- Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies
- UCI Ethics Center
- UCI MIND

**Student Grievances and Appeals**

- Academic Integrity Review Board (AIRB)
  - Completed 11 appeal reviews by the end of Spring 2023

**Task Forces and Special Committees**

- Task Force on Adjusting to New Labor Agreements
  - Produced and submitted final report and recommendations
- Special Committee to Review the Academic Program Review (APR) Process
  - Produced and submitted revised APR materials for Fall 2023 review by GC and the Council on Educational Policy (CEP)