

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

April 21, 2010
MINUTES OF MEETING

I. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Pursuant to call, the Assembly of the Academic Senate met on Friday, April 21, 2010 via teleconference. Academic Senate Chair Henry Powell presided and called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. Senate Executive Director Martha Winnacker called the roll of Assembly members. Attendance is listed in Appendix A of these minutes.

II. MINUTES

ACTION: The Assembly approved the minutes of the February 26, 2010 meeting as noticed.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

- Henry Powell

Chair Powell noted that the June 16 Assembly meeting will be held in person in Oakland. He stated that at this time there is no news regarding next year's budget. He and Vice Chair Simmons will visit all of the divisions in April and May to discuss and hear concerns about possible changes in the University's post-employment benefits plans. President Yudof has stated that he will not take any proposal to change post-employment benefits to the Regents before the Senate has an opportunity for full review. Chair Powell noted that today's agenda includes time to discuss informally the first round of recommendations of the Commission on the Future Working Groups. A second set of recommendations will be released in June. He stated that he and Vice Chair Simmons continue their advocacy efforts on behalf of higher education. In March Chair Powell testified before the Joint Committee on the Master Plan. Next week, he will chair an ICAS (the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates) meeting that will include visits with multiple legislators and two hours with staff from the Legislative Analyst's Office who work on higher education issues.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

Please see Appendix B for President Yudof's remarks.

V. SPECIAL ORDERS [NONE]

VI. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES [NONE]

VII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES [NONE]

A. Academic Council

1. Nomination and Election of the 2010-11 Vice Chair of the Assembly

The Academic Council nominated Professor Robert M. Anderson of the Berkeley Division for Vice Chair of the Assembly in 2010-11. Chair Powell asked the Berkeley Division to request that Professor Anderson leave the room. No other written nominations were received, and no one made a nomination from the floor.

ACTION: The Assembly unanimously elected Professor Anderson to be 2010-11 Assembly Vice Chair.

2. Proposed Repeal of SR 764

The proposal to repeal Senate Regulation 764 was initiated by UCEP and approved by Council. It also has been reviewed by the University Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction and found to be consistent with the Bylaws and Regulations of the Senate.

ACTION: The Assembly unanimously endorsed the repeal of SR 764.

3. Discussion of the Recommendations of the Commission on the Future Working Groups

Chair Powell noted that this meeting provides an opportunity for a larger group of representative Senate members to engage in conversation about the recommendations. He emphasized that the discussion does not preempt the formal review process. Rather, it is a valuable opportunity to share perspectives among faculty across the University. Each division commented on the recommendations that are generating the most discussion on their campuses and outlined their approach to responding to the review.

Recommendations on Curriculum: The recommendation to increase online education is causing concern about changing the quality of a UC education, the character of the University and the collegiate experience. A member noted that UCOP's Academic Planning unit hopes to develop pilot courses that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of online courses in different disciplines. Such courses would have to be approved by local Committees on Courses. A member advocated developing a definition of "UC Quality" and using it to weigh each recommendation.

Similarly, faculty expressed concern about the recommendation to create more transfer pathways in high-demand majors. This would require a uniform lower division curriculum across the university, which would infringe on the purview of professors to determine educational content.

Some divisions stated that offering three year degrees would put stress on academic planning, particularly in science and engineering. Keith Williams, Chair of the Education and Curriculum Working Group and a member of the Assembly, clarified that three year degrees would be targeted to specific majors that are conducive to a shorter program. He stated that students who arrive with many college credits could finish earlier, providing access to other students. A member noted that currently 3% of undergraduates complete their degrees in three years, and this initiative would simply make it easier for them to do so by increasing the use of summer school and other strategies.

Recommendations on Access and Affordability: Several divisions questioned the impact of the recommendation to increase the proportion of non-resident students on the University's mission to provide access to Californians. In addition, continual tuition increases would represent a fundamental change in the state's educational system. Several divisions expressed concern about instituting differential fees by campus because they believe it would result in tiering of campuses. As alternatives to raising revenue by accepting more non-residents, a member suggested charging students who exceed time-to-degree limits higher fees, as well as charging a laboratory fee for impacted majors that would be used to finance more sections. One division warned against adopting a multi-year fee schedule because of the public relations peril of breaking such a promise. Given that the state is an unreliable partner and budgeting is done year by year, how could the University keep such a promise?

Other: Some divisions noted that the proposals on research overhead are controversial; many laboratory faculty view them as an additional tax.

A member stated that some of the recommendations are not consistent with the subsequent text, and that some valuable suggestions in the text are not in the recommendations.

VIII. UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY WELFARE REPORT [NONE]

IX. PETITIONS OF STUDENTS [NONE]

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS [NONE]

XI. NEW BUSINESS [NONE]

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Attest: Henry Powell, Academic Senate Chair

Minutes Prepared by: Clare Sheridan, Academic Senate Analyst

Attachments: Appendix A – Assembly Attendance Record, Meeting of April 21, 2010
Appendix B – Remarks of President Yudof to the Assembly of the Academic Senate

Appendix A – 2009-2010 Assembly Attendance Record, Meeting of April 21, 2010

President of the University:

Mark Yudof (absent)

Academic Council Members:

Henry Powell, Chair

Daniel Simmons, Vice Chair

Christopher Kutz, Chair, UCB

Robert Powell, Chair, UCD

Judith Stepan-Norris, Chair, UCI

Robin Garrell, Chair, UCLA

Martha Conklin, Chair UCM

Anthony Norman, Chair, UCR

William Hodgkiss, Chair, UCSD

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, UCSF

Joel Michaelsen, Chair, UCSB

Lori Kletzer, Chair, UCSC

Sylvia Hurtado, Chair, BOARS

Farid Chehab, Chair, CCGA (absent)

Ines Boechat, Chair, UCAAD (absent)

Alison Butler, Chair, UCAP

Keith Williams, UCEP

Shane White, UCFW

Gregory Miller, Chair, UCORP

Peter Krapp, Chair, UCPB (absent)

Berkeley (6)

Daniel Boyarin

Suzanne Fleiszig

Fiona Doyle (alternate for James Hunt)

Theodore Slaman (alternate for Anthony Long)

Miryam Sas (alternate for Mary Ann Mason)

Pablo Spiller

Davis (6)

Joel Haas (absent)

Brian Morrissey (absent)

Brian Mulloney

Krishnan Nambiar

John Oakley (absent)

Jeffrey Williams (alternate for David Simpson)

Irvine (4)

Hoda Anton-Culver

Luis Aviles

Kenneth Chew

David Kay

Los Angeles (9 - 1 TBA)

Malcolm Gordon

William Grundfest (alternate)

Jody Kreiman (absent)

Timothy Lane

Duncan Lindsey (absent)

Susanne Lohmann

Purnima Mankekar (absent)

James Miller (alternate for Paula Diaconescu)

Joseph Nagy (absent)

Natik Piri

Dottie Wiley (alternate)

Merced (1)

Jan Wallender (alternate for Nella Van Dyke)

Riverside (2)

Manuela Martins-Green

Albert Wang

San Diego (4)

Hans Paar (alternate for Salah Baouendi)

Timothy Bigby

Sandra Brown

Stephen Cox (absent)

San Francisco (3)

David Gardner (absent)

Deborah Greenspan

Sandra Weiss

Santa Barbara (3 – 1 TBA)

Henning Bohn (alternate for Chuck Bazerman)

Richard Church

Santa Cruz (2)

Mark Carr

Marc Mangel

Secretary/Parliamentarian

Peter Berck