

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes of Teleconference

Wednesday, November 30, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

I. Senate Officers' Announcements**▪ Robert Anderson, Academic Council Chair**

- 1. Report on November 28 Regents Meeting.** Chair Anderson reported that the Regents approved a budget that requests \$441M more than the state provided this year. The president's position is that there will be no tuition increase if UC receives the amount requested, and that any less would be made up by tuition. The Regents also approved an increase in employee contributions to UCRP to 6.5% beginning on July 1, 2013. The Senate previously raised concerns about the impact on total remuneration of the increased contribution.
- 2. Update on UC Online Education.** Chair Anderson reported on the recent meeting of the UC Online Pilot Project Steering Committee. Two classes are expected to be offered in January, and 7 or 8 additional ones in the spring quarter. Many logistical issues remain unresolved, a number of which are in the control of the Senate, but are set campus by campus. These issues are complex, but are all resolvable.
- 3. Update on WASC.** Chair Anderson asked UCEP Chair Wudka to report on his committee's meeting with WASC. He noted that it was a productive meeting. The Commission created a pilot project with a few institutions that have agreed to adopt the Lumina Foundation's Degree Qualifications Profile. UC objects to such external evaluations of quality and UCEP is planning to propose an alternative that maintains local control and is a revision of the current program review process. UCEP also will write a white paper explaining how this process meets WASC criteria. WASC has asked for comments on the handbook revision to be submitted to the Commission by January 15 and plans to adopt the changes by February 2012.
- 4. Provost search committee.** The faculty subcommittee has screened only one-third to one-half of the nomination pool; the first meeting of the entire search committee is in two weeks. The goal is to appoint a new provost at the May Regents' meeting. A member asked the systemwide Senate office to distribute the job advertisements to solicit nominees for the positions of both the provost and the UCSD Chancellor. Chair Anderson said that he will send the advertisement, which invites nominations, along with a cover note to Council encouraging divisional chairs to circulate it among their faculty.

II. Approval of the Agenda**ACTION: The agenda was unanimously approved as noticed.****III. Consent Calendar**

- 1. Approve draft October Council minutes**

ACTION: The consent calendar was unanimously approved.

IV. Systemwide Review of APM 200 and 205

ISSUE: Council briefly discussed and approved a draft response to proposed revisions to APM 200 and 205 on the recall of retired faculty.

ACTION: Council unanimously approved the draft response to APM 200 and 205.

V. Request for representation in ANR governance

ISSUE: The newly established Academic Council Special Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources (ACSCANR) met with Vice President Allen-Diaz and her staff to discuss greater Senate involvement in ANR governance. Subsequently, ACSCANR drafted a letter requesting representation on the ANR Program Committee and on other ANR committees (proposal review, executive searches, and strategic planning) through formal Senate appointment processes, and the right to review and comment on a variety of issues affecting faculty.

DISCUSSION: ACSCANR Chair Gauvain summarized discussion at the meeting. The committee wanted to know how ANR set its priorities and how it plans to manage its funds in a period of decreased state support. An overarching question was what would a 21st century view of a land grant university look like? Committee members articulated their desire to have formal Senate representation on ANR committees that have an impact on academic issues, such as research funding. Provost Pitts and Vice President Allen-Diaz responded favorably, and suggested that the Senate write a formal request. The draft letter requests formal Senate representation on the ANR Program Council, which makes major programmatic and resource decisions, as well as on search committees for senior administrators and on committees that engage in strategic planning. Faculty also would like Senate standing committees to review and comment on ANR proposals and plans. A member remarked that the administration's receptiveness to Senate consultation on appropriate ANR issues is positive and welcome news. A member suggested that appointments of Senate representatives should not wait until the next academic year, and stated that the goal should be to make the appointments by January 2012.

ACTION: Council unanimously approved the draft letter, with the addition of language regarding a timeline for responding to the request.

VI. Reports from the divisions on campus protests, police action, and follow up

ISSUE: Divisional chairs reported on the how their campuses are handling student protests and how the Senate is participating in campus planning for these events. Council received updates on the situations at Davis and Berkeley, and on the progress of the systemwide inquiry.

DISCUSSION: Davis divisional chair Linda Bisson reported that protestors have moved into Dutton Hall, where the financial aid office is housed, and are blocking access to the services. The administration is looking for an alternate location to provide these services, and the student body is beginning to object to the occupation of Dutton Hall. Some faculty have called for a vote of no confidence, but she advised them to wait until the various reports on the incident are submitted. The Representative Assembly at Davis will meet on Friday to issue some sort of resolution on the protests and the police action; several motions are circulating for support among faculty. In addition, some faculty strongly object to Kroll, the company hired to do a "fact finding" report, but most support the appointment of UC Davis law professor emeritus and state Supreme Court Justice Cruz Reynoso. Since Kroll will be limited to factual reporting and the Reynoso panel will be making judgments and recommendations, the divisional Senate has opted not to take a position.

The divisional Executive Committee is convening its own task force regarding the incident, with a proposed deadline of late January.

UC Berkeley division chair Robert Jacobsen summarized the faculty meeting on Monday (November 28) at which four resolutions critical of the Chancellor were passed overwhelmingly (336-34). The authors of the resolutions tried to find common ground and one removed the reference to a statement of “no confidence.” Together, the four resolutions make a powerful statement of reasonableness regarding how to handle protests and freedom of speech. Two reviews will be conducted, one by the police department, itself, and one by the Police Review Board. Over 600 videos have been submitted for consideration, so although the reviews will be expedited, they will probably take 30 to 90 days. The protests are dwindling; there were only 25 people yesterday, (November 29) and protestors failed to meet a quorum required to make decisions at their General Assembly. However, the underlying lack of communication by the administration remains. A Special Senate meeting will be convened in a few days to discuss future steps.

Several divisional chairs stated that their Senates are monitoring events, but there has not been a need to convene a campus forum or Senate meeting. Others reported small encampments that were peacefully dismantled. At several campuses, administrators are constructively engaging with the students both verbally and in official messages. For example, the EVC at UCSC has attended several rallies and held office hours on the plaza. At UCSD, the Senate chair, Chancellor and EVC jointly issued a memo honoring the right of free speech and supporting non-violence. UC Merced’s divisional chair reported that after the Regents’ meeting, Provost Pitts and Regent Ruiz stayed and talked to the students. A member commented that the discussions have mainly been about protest management, and the students’ main message has gotten lost.

Chair Anderson listed all of the inquiries that are underway. Kroll Corporation, led by former Los Angeles police chief William Bratton, has been hired to complete a fact-finding report on the incident at UC Davis within thirty days. This report will be transmitted to a panel headed by Justice Reynoso, which will make recommendations focusing on policies, procedures and practices at UC Davis by early February. It will not make recommendations on any personnel actions. The panel will be appointed this week with representatives from a broad range of the community, and will hold its first meeting before the holidays. A third committee, headed by UC General Counsel Charles Robinson and UC Berkeley Law School Dean Chris Edley, will provide a review of police protocols and policies systemwide. The reporting structure includes a dotted line to the Executive Vice President for Business Operations through the Council of Chiefs, chaired on a three-year rotating appointment by one of the campus police chiefs. In addition, campus-based reviews include internal affairs within the police departments at UCB and UCD, the UC Berkeley Police Review Board, and the UC Davis Senate Executive Council. External reviews include an inquiry being conducted by the Yolo County District Attorney’s office and a California state Assembly hearing scheduled for December 14.

VII. New Business. *Council did not discuss any new business.*

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Attest: Robert Anderson, Academic Council Chair

Minutes prepared by Clare Sheridan, Senior Policy Analyst