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2003-04 ICAS HOSTED BY UC SENATE

The [Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates](#) (ICAS) has played a pivotal role in fostering cooperation among California's three segments of public higher education during the past twenty years, but few in the UC community are aware of this group's important work.

ICAS is a voluntary organization of Academic Senate leaders from CSU, UC, and CCC. It meets four to five times a year to discuss academic matters of mutual concern, including the California Master Plan for Higher Education, and issues related to access, transfer, articulation, general education, and educational quality and standards. For the 2003-04 committee, the budget crisis and enrollment issues are high on the agenda.

Among the committee's many notable accomplishments are a series of Statements on Competencies Expected of Entering College Students, the development and implementation of the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC), and content standards in English and mathematics for high school graduates.

ICAS was established in 1980 mainly through the efforts of the then-Chair of the UC Academic Senate, Karl Pister, and Norbert Bishop, President of the CCC Academic Senate, to explore ways to upgrade the standards of transfer programs and reduce the rate of failure among students who transfer to four-year institutions. The ICAS membership is composed of five faculty representatives from each of the segments, including the Senate Chairs and Vice Chairs. Since ICAS has no budget, meeting expenses are borne by the "host" institution, which rotates annually among the segments. The host institution for 2003-04 is UC, and UC's Senate Chair, Lawrence Pitts, chairs the committee.

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OUTREACH: More Faculty Involvement Urged

A new faculty vision for outreach was the topic of a daylong conference sponsored jointly by the Academic Council and the Office of the President held in Oakland on November 7. Faculty members and administrators from across the UC system who are actively engaged in outreach initiatives participated, as well as President Robert Dynes and Provost C. Judson King.

The impetus for the conference came from discussions within the Academic Council last year that called for more faculty involvement in outreach given UC's current budgetary situation, and from the [Strategic Review Panel's Report](#) "Forging California's Future through Educational Partnerships" that was presented to the Regents in May. One of the key recommendations in that report was that educational outreach should be incorporated in the University's teaching and research mission and, as a consequence, involve faculty more directly in outreach efforts. How this might be accomplished was the main focus of the program.

In his opening remarks, President Dynes said that faculty are the intellectual core of the University and, as such, an invaluable resource for addressing societal issues. "Faculty have the academic credentials that will command attention, familiarity with the subject matter and with the skills students need for success, and a love of teaching because it makes a difference. This expertise could be a major force in closing the achievement gap," he said. Dynes noted that one critical barrier to faculty involvement in outreach is time away from research.

That outreach activities may not be recognized in the academic review process is a second critical barrier. As one of six panelists asked to discuss the continuing commitment of faculty in UC outreach, UC Regent Odessa Johnson said that faculty are not rewarded in the way that they should be. This was noted by the Strategic Review Panel, of which Regent Johnson was a member. The Panel recognized the enormous value of faculty involvement in the University's outreach efforts and encouraged the Academic Senate "...to develop the means by which faculty can be properly recognized and rewarded for their participation in outreach." Academic Senate Chair, Lawrence Pitts, plans to raise this issue with members of the Academic Council.

Reliable methods for evaluating the quality of outreach activities would need to be developed before these activities could be considered in the academic review process. While it was acknowledged that this would not be a simple task, everyone agreed that until some credit is awarded faculty for their contributions to UC's outreach effort, strong faculty support and increased participation were unlikely. Observed one faculty member who has been engaged in outreach activities most of his academic career, "This work has always been at the bottom of the food chain at the University of California."