I. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Pursuant to the call, the Assembly of the Academic Senate met on Wednesday, June 10, 2015. Academic Senate Chair Mary Gilly presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Senate Director Hilary Baxter called the roll of Assembly members and confirmed a quorum. Attendance is listed in Appendix A of these minutes.

II. MINUTES

ACTION: Assembly approved the minutes of the April 15, 2015 meeting as noticed.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

- Mary Gilly

Apportionment of 2015-16 Assembly: Chair Gilly noted that the apportionment of the Assembly for 2015-16 is enclosed in the agenda; campus representation has not changed.

Transfer Initiative: Campuses are currently reviewing transfer pathway agreements for ten majors. The pathways reflect a set of lower division courses that will be sufficient preparation for transfer admission to a given major at all nine campuses. They will make it easier for California Community College (CCC) students, who now apply to an average of four UC campuses, to prepare simultaneously for multiple campuses, and will also clarify the differences and similarities between UC’s expectations and the expectations articulated in the CSU Transfer Model Curriculum for the Associate Degrees for Transfer. A website detailing the pathways will go live on July 1, and a joint press conference with President Napolitano and intersegmental higher education leaders will follow on July 7. The Senate office is scheduling meetings for 11 additional majors in October—business administration, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, history, political science, communication, English/Literature, psychology, political science, computer science, film, and philosophy. The budget agreement between the Governor and the University also includes an expectation that UC will adopt systemwide transfer pathways for 20 majors. Campuses made clear that they do not want the pathways depicted as “requirements,” and want to maintain the flexibility to admit students missing one or more of the courses. The pathways do not negate the individual articulation agreements between campuses and CCCs.

Sexual Violence and Harassment Policy: The Senate has expressed substantial concerns about a Proposed Revised Presidential Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence, and particularly the failure of the policy to adequately address the roles and responsibilities of faculty as mandated reporters of sexual harassment. Policy revisions are needed to meet the
requirements of the federal Violence Against Women Act, taking effect July 1. UC will issue an interim policy on July 1 that meets the federal requirements, while simultaneously engaging in an effort to revise the policy to address faculty concerns.

UC Funding Framework: The budget agreement between the Governor and UC will increase UC’s base budget by 4% in each of the next four years, and provide UC with nearly $500 million in one-time funding for UCRP, deferred maintenance, and energy efficient capital projects. In exchange, UC will freeze resident tuition through 2016-17, increase Nonresident Supplemental Tuition by 16% over the next two years, and implement a new pension tier for employees hired after July 1, 2016. The new tier may give new employees the choice between a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan, and a Defined Benefit (DB) Plan that limits pensionable salary to the Social Security Wage Base established by the California Public Employees’ Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA). Some employees will have access to a hybrid plan that combines the DB plan and a supplemental DC plan. The Senate will have representation on a task force that will consider the details of the new tier. Some faculty are concerned about losing the institutional benefits of the DB plan, which helps attract top faculty, retain them mid-career, and encourage retirement at an appropriate age.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

- Janet Napolitano

Budget Agreement: The agreement with Governor Brown puts UC on a path to long-term budget sustainability, provides tuition stability and predictability for students and their families, and avoids efforts to interfere with the academic mission of the University. The President emphasized in negotiations with the Governor that UC would not bargain away the need to reinvest in academic quality. The University was also able to avoid several damaging scenarios that could have established strict prohibitions against a hybrid DB-DC pension plan option and increases to Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition, a hard cap on nonresident enrollment, and mandates related to online education, three-year degrees, and faculty teaching and research workloads. UC agreed to implement or explore programmatic innovations that will benefit students, including the development of systemwide transfer pathways. The pension funding agreement requires UC to use Proposition 2 revenues only to supplement, not supplant, Regents-approved employer contributions to UCRP to pay down UC’s pension obligations; however, the funding will allow UC to free up other monies and help reduce the employer contribution over time. Chief Operating Officer Rachael Nava will lead the Task Force to design the new pension tier, and the process will benefit from the expertise of the Senate chair and vice chair. UCOP is working with legislators to secure additional funding for California resident enrollment growth. The President met with the Latino Legislative Caucus and discussed the importance of enrollment funding to support access to the Latino community and other underserved communities.

Research Catalyst Awards: The President’s Research Catalyst Award program is intended to stimulate cross-campus research collaborations in areas of importance to California and the world and to provide educational opportunities for UC undergraduate and graduate students. The initial set of awards are funding projects related to climate change, health care in the criminal justice system, quantum physics, and the use of social media data to address public health, poverty and social justice. Phase 2 awards winners will announced in late 2015.
Global Food Initiative: The Global Food Initiative seeks to address how to nutritiously and sustainably feed a growing world population and to align UC’s research, outreach, and extension efforts to support food security, health, and sustainability. The Initiative has developed a tool kit of best practices for UC—for example, leveraging the University’s food purchasing power to promote good farming practices and ensure that healthy food is served in UC facilities. A California Higher Education Food Summit is being planned for mid-January.

Carbon Neutrality Initiative: The President formed the Global Climate Leadership Council to advise her on how UC can become the first major university to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025. UC has undertaken several efforts in this area, which include funding sustainability research projects, becoming a wholesale power provider, making the largest solar energy purchase of any university in the country, and committing to a sustainable investment policy.

President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship Program: UC has committed $2.1 million to incentivize the hiring of postdoctoral fellows from diverse backgrounds who come out of the PPFP Program and up to $1.2 million to support start-up packages for diverse faculty in STEM fields who will start at UC in 2015-16. A separate initiative promotes recruitment directly from the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

UC Mexico Initiative: The UC-Mexico Initiative seeks to leverage California’s unique geographic and historical relationship with Mexico to create sustained academic, cultural, social, and educational partnerships and exchanges between UC and higher education institutions in Mexico. UC has executed three important MOUs with Mexican institutions that cover joint academic, scientific, and cultural activities in areas of common interest.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Another initiative is considering how UC fosters innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology commercialization in the context of its public mission to lead innovation. The Regents appointed UCSF Professor and QB3 Director Regis Kelly Senior Advisor to the President for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to look at UC’s efforts across the system, and approved the creation of UC Ventures, an independent fund managed by the University’s Chief Investment Officer that will evaluate and finance faculty start-up proposals that commercialize UC research.

Questions and Answers:

Q: How can UC bolster faculty understanding of the value of the UC-HBCU Initiative, and provide a more welcoming environment for the highly qualified students who enter UC graduate programs through this program?

A: UC is often criticized for not having a more diverse faculty. We can change this not only by recruiting faculty who are already established in academia, but also by growing our own, and this is what the initiative is designed to do. We have 90 students from HBCUs participating in research internships at eight of our campuses this summer, and eight enrolled PhD students who are alumni of the program. The idea is to give these students research experiences and also introduce them to the University of California. We will think about how to ensure more faculty awareness of and support for the program.
Q: I am encouraged to hear that you are trying to secure funding for more resident undergraduate enrollments. Are you also considering how to address the large number of unfunded students who are already enrolled on UC campuses?

A: We will not be able to get funding from the state for that. The unfunded enrollment is the legacy of Regental decisions during the recession to continue increasing the enrollment of in-state students. It was the right decision from a values standpoint; however, it meant that UC has been carrying about 7,500 students for whom we have never received state funding. Some campuses have taken a greater proportion of those students, and the re benching process is designed to help smooth out the disproportionate effects. We will also be cognizant of this as we make decisions about the budget distribution to campuses next year.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PROVOST

- Aimée Dorr

The budget agreement between the University and Governor Brown asks UC to implement or expand several programmatic innovations, many of which emerged from the Committee of Two process. These include developing systemwide transfer paths and increasing the number of transfers to the 2:1 ratio in the Master Plan; developing three-year degree pathways to increase from 2.6% to 5% the proportion of students who graduate in three years; reducing the number of upper division courses required for a major; increasing the use of technology to aid teaching and to help guide decisions and actions; increasing advising to help students succeed, and eliminating performance gaps related to race, ethnicity, and gender.

More specifically, campuses will be asked to develop three-year degree specifications for 10 of their top 15 majors; incentivize and remove barriers to increased summer enrollment; review curricular requirements for 75% of majors and reduce, when possible, the number of required upper division courses, akin to UCLA’s “Challenge 45” Initiative; and redouble efforts to increase online courses and certificate programs with input from industry about workforce needs. Campuses will also be asked to use “activity-based-costing” to enhance understanding of instructional costs, “predictive analytics” to identify at-risk students, and “adaptive learning technology” to help students master challenging coursework. The systemwide Senate will be asked to revisit current policies related to awarding UC credit for AP courses and exams and other placement tests, and to consider using the Course Identification Numbering System C-ID as a supplemental numbering system for UC courses. Many innovations are already underway and some will apply to UC campuses differently. Some may involve faculty in a direct decision-making role (three-year degrees); others in a more advisory role (enhancing advising).

Discussion: It was noted that while faculty do not control resources that may help support advising functions, faculty should have a major role in the advising recommendation, as they are responsible for designing majors and delivering the curriculum, and their advice about proper course sequencing and how the curriculum should be experienced within a major may be more precise than administrators.

VI. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Council
1. Nomination and Election of 2015-16 UCOC Vice Chair

ACTION: The Assembly unanimously elected Robert Clare (UCR) as 2015-16 UCOC Vice Chair.

2. Proposed Amendments to Academic Senate Bylaw 128.D.2

Following a systemwide Senate review, the Academic Council recommended at its April 29, 2015 meeting that Senate Bylaw 128.D be amended as proposed by the University Committee on Committees (UCOC) to provide that the vice chairs for all standing systemwide committees whose membership is governed by SBL 128 be at-large members. Currently the at-large requirement applies only to committees represented on the Academic Council. The amendment would eliminate the requirement that the vice chairs of committees not represented on Council be selected from among the divisional appointees of the corresponding local campus committee and regularize the requirement that systemwide committee vice chairs have experience as members of their local committee. The University Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction certified that the legislation is consonant with the Code of the Academic Senate.

ACTION: The Assembly voted unanimously to approve the proposed amendments.

VII. UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON FACULTY WELFARE REPORT [None]

VIII. SPECIAL ORDERS
   A. Consent Calendar [None]

IX. REPORTS ON SPECIAL COMMITTEES [None]

X. PETITIONS OF STUDENTS [None]

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS [None]

XII. NEW BUSINESS [None]

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am
Minutes Prepared by: Michael LaBriola, Academic Senate Analyst
Attest: Mary Gilly, Academic Senate Chair

Attachments: Appendix A – Assembly Attendance Record, Meeting of June 10, 2015

President of the University:
Janet Napolitano

Academic Council Members:
Mary Gilly, Chair
J. Daniel Hare, Vice Chair
Panos Papadopoulos, Chair, UCB (absent)
Andre Knoesen, Chair, UCD
William Molzon, Chair, UCI
Joel D. Aberbach, Chair, UCLA
Jian-Qiao Sun, Chair, UCM
Jose Wudka, Chair, UCR
Gerry Boss, Chair, UCSD (absent)
Farid Chehab, Chair, UCSF
Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair, UCSB (absent)
Donald Brenneis, Chair, UCSC
Ralph Aldredge, Chair, BOARS
Jutta Heckhausen, Chair, CCGA (absent)
David Lopez-Carr, Chair, UCAAD (absent)
Jeffrey Knapp, Chair, UCAP (absent)
Tracy Larrabee, Chair, UCEP
Joel Dimsdale, Chair, UCFW
Liane Brouillette, Chair, UCORP (absent)
Gary Leal, Chair, UCPB

Berkeley (5)
Kristie Boering
Suzanne M. J. Fleiszig
Glynda Hull (alt for Oliver O’Reilly)
Theodore Slaman
Lisa Alvarez-Cohen (alt for David Zilberman)

Davis (6)
Gian Aldo Antonelli
Angie Chabram-Dernersesian (absent)
James Chalfant
Gino Cortopassi (absent)
John Oakley (absent)
Robert L. Powell (absent)

Irvine (4)
Brian Cummings (alt for Sameer Ashar)
David Kay
John Lowengrub (absent)

Los Angeles (8)
Roman Koropecckjy
Purnima Mankekar
Hanna Mikkola
Frank Petrigliano
Ninez Ponce
E. Richard Stiehm
Christopher Tilly (absent)
Dorothy Wiley

Merced (1)
Robin Maria DeLugan (absent)

Riverside (2)
Mary Gauvain
Ilhem Messaoudi Powers (absent)

San Diego (5)
Grant Goodall
Joanna McKittrick
Susan Narucki
Margaret Schoeninger (absent)
Steven Wasserman

San Francisco (4)
Jacque Duncan
David Teitel (absent)
John Feiner (alt for Elyse Foster)
Russell Pieper (absent)

Santa Barbara (3)
Charles Akemann
Henning Bohn
Eric Matthys

Santa Cruz (2)
Olof Einarsdottir
Catherine Jones

Secretary/Parliamentarian
George J. Mattey