

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE. The Academic Council is the executive administrative arm of the Assembly of the Academic Senate and can act in lieu of the Assembly on non-legislative matters. It advises the President on behalf of the Assembly and has the continuing responsibility through our committee structure to investigate and report to the Assembly on matters of Universitywide concern.

2004-05 ISSUES

The Academic Council took under review more than eighty initiatives, proposals and reports during the 2004-05 year. Those on which formal dispositions were issued included: proposed changes to sections of the Academic Personnel Manual; changes to a wide range of University policies; review of academic programs and systemwide research units; and amendments to the Manual of the Senate. The Academic Council's final recommendations on many of these issues are posted on the Senate's website at: <http://www.Universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/reports/>. Matters of particular import for the year are noted below.

GRADUATE EDUCATION

Graduate Student Enrollment and Support

The current state of graduate education at UC, a cardinal concern of the 2004-05 Council, is characterized by a declining percentage of graduate students at our campuses, declining international student enrollments, our inability to make competitive offers, and the challenge faced by departments and researchers in supporting academic graduate students at the current fee levels. Council discussed this topic at a majority of its meetings throughout the year, deliberating possible policy changes related to financial aid structure, graduate student resident status, and tuition waivers, and addressing the need to raise public awareness of the importance of graduate education. Graduate education was also one of the discussion items at the joint Academic Council / EVC meeting in March, where specific strategies were considered to reverse these trends seen as undermining the UC graduate student enterprise. Among the Council's related actions was a proposed legislative Concurrent Resolution, jointly endorsed by the UC and CSU Academic Senates, which clarifies the benefits of graduate education to the state's economy. Council also deliberated specific graduate student funding options, a discussion that will continue next year in consultation with Vice President of Budget, Lawrence Hershman. Acting on a UCPB-initiated recommendation of this year's Council, the administration will be establishing, on a trial basis, a systemwide Committee on Competitive Graduate Student Financial Support to advise the Provost on graduate and professional student support issues.

Other Graduate Education Issues

The Council was regularly updated on and discussed proposed legislation to allow CSU the authority to grant independent doctorates. The committee also vetted a Report on Graduate and Professional School Admissions and Diversity, which was developed at the request of Council by the University Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity and forwarded to the Provost's Task Force on Planning for Doctoral and Professional Education for its consideration.

UC MERCED

A real highlight of the year was the formal establishment of the UC Merced Senate Division. In April, the Academic Council approved a proposed set of divisional bylaws for UCM, along with a

proposal to establish the Division pending certification by Council that an adequate funding plan was in place for the effective operation of the Merced divisional Senate office. The proposed bylaws and the proposal for establishment were approved by the Assembly in May. In June, informed by the unanimous endorsement of the Merced proto-divisional council, the Academic Council voted its acceptance of the funding plan, thereby formally establishing the new division. The Academic Senate's Guidelines for the Establishment of a New Division, which were approved by Council in November and ratified by the Assembly at its March meeting, will provide an additional conceptual foundation for the Merced Senate's development.

RESEARCH ISSUES

Research Funding

In 2003-04, the Academic Council charged the University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) to investigate University policy concerning "strings" attached to research contracts, grants and gifts. UCORP's report, "Problematic Restrictive Clauses in Contracts, Grants and Gifts for Research," and its accompanying "Resolution on Restrictions on Funding Sources," which supports the right of individual researchers to accept funding from any source that is legitimate under systemwide university policy, were approved by the 2003-04 Council. In response to concerns raised at the beginning of this year about both content and process relating to the Resolution, the 2004-05 Council sent it out for full review and reconsideration. This general review resulted in a revised document that maintains the position of the original Resolution, but includes procedural clarifications. Council forwarded it to the Assembly in May, where it was endorsed and renamed the "Resolution on Research Funding Sources."

Senate Review of Systemwide Research Units

Multi-campus Research Units. The Academic Council issued formal comments on the 15-year reviews of four MRUs, approving continued support for California Sea Grant, the Institute for Transportation Studies, and the Institute for Geophysics and Planetary Physics, but recommending that CalSpace be disestablished and that its associated funds be re-competed. Council also issued a separate position statement in support of an MRU establishment and review process that incorporates cyclical open competition, encourages MRUs to achieve independent funding, and frees up systemwide resources for support of new initiatives. Council therefore resubmitted a recommendation of the 03-04 Council that a joint task force be created to determine an implementation plan. In addition to participating in the regular MRU review cycle, the Academic Council responded to the Office of Laboratory Management's sudden and severe reduction in funds for the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC). Council objected to this action being taken without Senate consultation and without any consideration given to the quality of the work being done by this MRU. *California Institutes for Science and Innovation (Cal ISIs).* After more than two years of requests from the Academic Council for the Office of Academic Affairs to establish a joint workgroup to craft a review process for the Cal ISIs, a draft plan was brought forward by the Provost's office after discussions with the Senate leadership. In order to do a preliminary review of this proposed review structure, the Council, informed by comments by the compendium committees, submitted detailed comments on the draft review procedures. It was Council's intention to have a full senate review of the revised procedures when they are forwarded to us, but so far we have had no response from Academic Affairs.

ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT – STEP VI

Following up on its review last year of the Report of the Professorial Step System Task Force, the Academic Council vetted and endorsed two further outcomes of the University Committee on

Academic Personnel's inquiry into advancement to Step VI. UCAP's *Report on Passing the Step VI Barrier* found no evidence to support the hypothesis that either women or under-represented minorities have been disadvantaged in advancing to Step VI; however, it did find differences among the campuses in the frequency of their faculty's advancement to Step VI. Council forwarded this report to the administration with the recommendation that systemwide collection of data on faculty personnel actions for longitudinal analysis be continued, and that similar studies of other faculty cohorts be conducted.

In a related action, the Academic Council considered and approved modifications to the criteria for advancement to Step VI and Above Scale (APM 220-18), as proposed by the University Committee on Academic Personnel (UCAP). The recommended changes, also an outgrowth of the 2004 UCAP task force report, are meant to lend clarity to the academic personnel process for campus CAPs and the general faculty, and to lessen the likelihood of disparities among the campuses in advancements to these levels.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND TRANSFER ISSUES

Transfer

This year the Academic Council approved and forwarded to the Assembly for enactment, two regulation changes that facilitate the transfer of students from California Community Colleges to UC. Senate Regulation 478.b was amended to allow students in the physical and biological sciences, since they must fulfill relatively heavier major requirements, to defer two of their general education courses until after transfer. This program, dubbed the Science General Education Transfer Curriculum (SciGETC), will make it easier for transfer students majoring in the sciences to simultaneously prepare for their major while completing all but two of the courses they need to satisfy the general education requirement.

Council also approved the new Senate Regulation 477, which provides a systemwide structure for streamlining the transfer process. The regulation requires campuses to accept major preparation courses or sets of courses for major preparation if four other UC campuses have accepted the course or set of courses. Campuses have an annual opportunity to review and opt out of this requirement.

Admissions

- Council reviewed a study by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools into how the National Merit Scholarship Program (NSMP) selects its scholarship winners. Because of concerns about NSMP selection procedures, Council adopted the position that UC should award neither scholarships nor extra weight in admissions based simply on National Merit Scholar status, and endorsed a *Resolution on the Failure of the National merit Scholarship Program to Meet the Requirements of UC's Definition of Merit*.
- A *Position Statement on Geographical Preferences* was approved and sent to the Provost for dissemination to campus administrators. The statement, formulated by BOARS, reaffirms the goal of providing geographic diversity among UC admittees, while explicitly excluding geographical preferences based on proximity to a campus.
- The task force empanelled by the Council in 2004 to study the role of Honors/AP/IB and community college courses in the admissions process completed its report. The Academic Council has forwarded that report to BOARS for their response and for consideration of possible recommendations

- Council approved two BOARS “white papers” intended to inform faculty, administrators and regents about the background of UC’s eligibility and admissions policies.

TASK FORCES AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Academic Council Special Committee on the National Labs (ACSCONL).

ACSCONL met eight times in 2004-05 to consider, in consultation with laboratory management and other UCOP senior officers, the range of issues related to the management of the three UC DOE labs, and focusing on the contract bidding process and shared governance and the labs. Council Vice Chair Brunk, the 2004-05 Chair of ACSCONL, regularly updated Council on lab-related issues and ACSCONL activities. In October, Council endorsed a Statement of Principles on Competing for the NNSA Laboratories, which is based on the premise that UC should manage the labs only as a public service to the country, and the principles were forwarded to President Dynes for consideration.

Special Committee on Scholarly Communication (SCSC)

This special committee was established last year with the charge to investigate a wide range of scholarly publication issues including: cost-effective production and optimal dissemination of scholarly works; dissemination methods and use for peer review and academic advancement; and assessing faculty interest in and legal issues related to new methods of publication. The SCSC forwarded two initiatives to the Academic Council during the year. The Academic Council endorsed a proposed Policy on Public Access and Archiving of Research Results for transmittal to the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. At Council’s request, President Dynes forwarded this proposal to their governing body. If adopted, this proposal would require that all publications resulting from research funded through the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Bond Act of 2004 must be made publicly and freely available on the web within six months. Also at the initiative of the SCSC, the Academic Council wrote to the officers of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and to federal legislators expressing concern about the implications of ACS actions seeking to constrain the NIH’s PubChem project, and stating support for the continuation of PubChem in the interest of public access to publicly funded research data. The SCSC will carry on its activities in the 2005-06 year.

Newly Established

The Academic council voted to establish these two groups whose work will begin in 2005-06:

- A Task Force on Senate Membership, which will look at the rationale for who is and is not a Senate member
- A task force to review the Senate Regulations

In addition, a Council Task Force on Faculty and Senior Management Salaries, chaired by John Oakley, began its work this year.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNING BODIES

Annual Report on Shared Governance

The Chair of the Academic Council issued the first of what will become an “Annual Senate Chair Report on Shared Governance.” The report, which was unanimously endorsed by the Council, incorporates assessments of shared governance in the divisions along with an in-depth evaluation of interactions at the statewide level. It was sent to the President with the request that it be shared with both the Chancellors and the executive Vice Chancellors. The report summarizes shared governance from the Senate perspective, itemizes interactions with administration on many of the year’s issues, and reflects a positive general opinion of the state of shared governance at UC.

Joint Administrative/Senate Retreat

The Academic Council has established the practice of meeting in alternate years with the Chancellors and the Executive Vice Chancellors to discuss matters of joint concern. This year, Council members met with the EVCs to discuss: 1) the crisis in graduate education – a discussion aimed at determining whether there are policy changes that could reverse current trends threatening the quality of graduate education at UC; and, 2) strategies to improve faculty diversity with the goals of enlarging the pipeline, devising ways to attract more diversity, and creating an environment for success.

The Regents

During the year, Regents Blum, Ruiz, Novack, and Anderson (along with Regent Designate Rosenthal), in separate visits, attended a meeting of the Academic Council at which they presented introductory remarks and engaged in an in-depth exchange with Council members on a variety of issues facing UC. In addition, both the Academic Council Chair and Vice Chair served as Faculty Representatives to the Regents throughout the year, acting in an advisory capacity on Regents' Standing Committees and to the entire Board.

Other Visitors

During the year, the Council was visited several times by Secretary to the Regents Leigh Trivette. In addition several, several divisional executive directors visited with the Academic Council. Finally, at the invitation of the Chair, California State University Academic Senate Chair David McNeil attended one Council meeting and exchanged perspectives with Council.

Proposed Changes to the APM

Council reviewed proposed changes to these sections of the Academic Personnel Manual:

APM 120 - Professor Emeritus Title

APM 190 - Policy on the Use of Non-19900 Fund Sources to Support Ladder-Rank Faculty

APMs 210, 240, 245 – Appointment and Promotion

APM 220-18 – Criteria for Advancement to Step VI and Above Scale

APM 200 -- Recall Appointments for Academic appointees

APM 700, 710 and proposed new APM 080 - Sick leave, medical leave, separation, leaves of absence

APM 760, 133-17, 210-1 and 220 – Policies on Work and Family

Changes to the Senate Manual

The 2005-06 Academic Council recommended to the Assembly changes in the following Senate Bylaws:

- SB 116A and B, and 125B, amended as proposed in the Academic Council's Guidelines for establishing a new division.
- SB 336, changed to clarify the three-year statute of limitation that begins once an alleged infraction is known by anyone in the line of reporting up to the Chancellor or the Chancellor's designee.
- SB 128, amended to provide that the University Committee on Committees (UCOC) shall appoint all subcommittee and task force members who have not already been appointed to some committee by UCOC.

The 2005-06 Academic Council recommended to the Assembly changes to the following Senate Regulations:

- Senate Regulation 600.B, amended to allow campus departments or programs to grant post baccalaureate degrees to faculty who hold Senate appointments at that campus, but not to those who have appointments within the degree-granting department/program. This change was motivated by a desire of UC faculty to advance their careers through engaging in additional training and education towards such degrees as the J.D., M.B.A, and the new Masters of Advanced Studies (MAS).
- Senate Regulation 478, amended to allow for the implementation of the Science General Education Transfer Curriculum (SciGETC)
- SR 477, created to implement a policy for streamlining the transfer process from California Community Colleges to UC.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

We express our sincere gratitude to these members of the Office of the President senior administration for their honest and productive collaboration with the Senate over the past year: Robert C. Dynes; President; M.R.C. Greenwood, Provost and Sr. Vice President-Academic Affairs; Bruce Darling, Sr. Vice President-University Affairs; Joseph Mullinix, Sr. Vice President-Business and Finance; and Lawrence Hershman, Vice President for Budget.

Respectfully submitted:

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Clifford Brunk, Vice Chair

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Dan Simmons, Davis
Joseph DiMento, Irvine
Kathleen Komar, Los Angeles
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Donald Tuzin, San Diego
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