

ACADEMIC COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2007-08

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE: The Academic Council is the administrative arm of the Assembly of the Academic Senate and acts in lieu of the Assembly on non-legislative matters. It advises the President on behalf of the Assembly and has the continuing responsibility through its committee structure to investigate and report to the Assembly on matters of Universitywide concern. The Academic Council considered more than sixty initiatives, proposals, and reports during the 2007-08 year. The final recommendations and reports issued by the Academic Council in 2007-08 can be found on the [Academic Senate website](#). Matters of particular import for the year are noted below.

BUDGETARY ISSUES

Given the state's budgetary woes, funding concerns were paramount for a range of programs and initiatives and were central to the Council's deliberations. In March, Council endorsed UCPB's [Report on the Cuts Proposed by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger](#), which recommended that 1) the University will establish a minimum cost of instruction no lower than the current, already-reduced, 2007-08 level, and will take the necessary steps to sustain its public investment per student, adjusted annually to reflect actual costs; 2) make clear to all branches of government and to the public that in order to maintain these already-reduced levels of per-student support, the University will in the near future need to respond to cuts by limiting enrollments; and 3) urge the President to disclose the true level of fees required to fund The Regents' Fall 2007 proposed budget and thereby maintain the current quality of a UC education (estimated in this report to be around \$10,500 by 2008-09), and to engage in a systematic campaign to rebuild statewide support for public funding of higher education. Council also endorsed an urgent [request](#) to Provost Hume for immediate support for the Science and Math Initiative. The Council continues to be concerned that funding for UC Merced is inadequate. It issued a [statement](#) that recommended 1) prioritizing UCM's two capital projects; 2) funding its students at a higher cost of instruction (\$12,500 per student); and 3) developing a strategic budgetary plan.

FACULTY WELFARE

Council's top priority continues to be the funding of the faculty salary plan. In March, it issued a [statement](#) affirming "the critical importance and urgency of bringing UC faculty salary scales into parity with those of comparable public and private institutions." In light of the state budget difficulties, it also issued [Priorities for Funding Year Two of the Faculty Salary Plan](#), in which the Senate placed fully funding Year 2 of the Faculty Salary Plan as the University's top budget priority. Council also looked into the issue of 'non-progressing' or 'disengaged' faculty members, and, through the agency of the University Committee on Academic Personnel, produced a [report](#) that concluded that this number is exceedingly small—at less than 1% of 4,300 faculty across the entire University system who were facing review during the period under study. Council also urged against micro-managing the salary scale adjustments in any way that would impede bringing the scales to market, that could impair the role of the salary scale/merit review system in performance management, or that could take away from CAP's ability to perform its duties.

Council was proactive in the governance of the UC Retirement Program (UCRP), taking a [position](#) supporting the resumption of employee contributions to UCRP, conditional on equivalent salary increases. Council also strongly [opposed](#) ACA 5, a proposal to create a new governing board for

UCRP composed largely of employees. It also endorsed making more flexible the opportunity to buy back UCRP service credit following a leave without pay. Lastly, it forwarded the following principles regarding UCRP administrative outsourcing: Plans to outsource: 1) should be justified on the basis of efficiency, effectiveness and cost; 2) should result in no diminution of the high quality of currently provided services; 3) providing employee information to a third party could increase the risk of security breaches and unauthorized disclosure of confidential information; 4) there should be no cost increases associated with outsourcing such services; and 5) outsourcing should in no way affect UC's role in the design of benefits plans.

GRADUATE EDUCATION

In April, Council endorsed a *Proposal for Modified Regulations and Guidelines Governing the Participation of Graduate Students in Delivering University Instruction*. It reinforces the role of faculty in mentoring graduate students, retains divisional Senate approval for upper-division undergraduate courses taught by Graduate Student Instructors, and allows campuses to enact restrictions on lower-division courses. Council also requested the formation of a Joint Senate/Administrative Committee to Establish a Funding Model for Graduate Education. Council endorsed the re-establishment of CCGA's authority over reviews of new professional graduate degree proposals for M.D., D.D.S., D.V.M., Pharm.D., and J.D. degrees. Following CCGA's recommendation, and on behalf of the Academic Assembly, Council approved a new Master of Public Health degree program at UC Irvine.

ELIGIBILITY/ADMISSIONS/DIVERSITY

BOARS' *Proposal to Reform UC's Freshman Eligibility Policy*, the culmination of a two-year process, was [approved](#) with changes to the recommended guarantee structure by the Assembly in June. If approved by The Regents, it would create a new pathway to eligibility: "Entitled to Review," guaranteeing qualified applicants a review by any campus to which they apply. It also would eliminate the SAT II subject test requirement, and alter the timeline for completing a-g requirements, thus removing technical barriers to eligibility and broadening the pool of applicants. Council also endorsed BOARS' recommendation that membership in a federally recognized American Indian tribe should serve as a "plus factor" in admissions, which is based on tribes' political status and, according to the Office of the General Counsel, does not violate Proposition 209. After systemwide review, Council also reviewed and endorsed the reports of The Regents' Study Group on Diversity.

RESEARCH ISSUES

The Assembly adopted a [Resolution on Limiting UC's Role in Manufacturing Nuclear Weapons](#), which asked the President to monitor and report to the Senate annually on the level of production of plutonium pits at the labs. The resolution further recommends that if the production levels can not be reported accurately, or the pits are produced beyond current levels or are used for the purpose of nuclear warhead replacement or production, UC should reassess its participation in the management of the labs.

Academic Council approved UCAF's requests: 1) to monitor the implementation of The Regent's policy RE-89, which places restrictions on research proposals to be submitted for tobacco company funding; and 2) that Committee on Academic Freedom representatives be appointed *ex-officio* to local panels that review such proposals.

GOVERNANCE

In response to a request from President Dynes, Council endorsed the criticisms and recommendations included in the [report](#) from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in its review of the UC system, as opposed to an accreditation review of a campus.

PROPOSALS FOR NEW SCHOOLS

Over the course of the year, Council reviewed the following proposals for new schools:

- **UC Davis School of Public Health**: Council encouraged the campus to revise the proposal to address a number of serious concerns, which include resources, the funding plan, faculty FTEs in the School, and the Master's of Public Health program.
- **UC Davis School of Nursing**: Council did not recommend approval of the proposal, citing the need for clarification on the following issues: 1) how the School would be integrated into and impact existing programs and curricula, on both the Ph.D. and undergraduate levels; 2) a clear description of the structure of the Ph.D. programs and their planned manner of operation (e.g., admissions, curricula, course requirements, advising, roles of nursing faculty, etc.); 3) the number of new nursing faculty needed by the School, and the availability of qualified candidates for those positions; 4) the need for a detailed budget (noting funding sources) for its library, capital projects, and operational costs; and 5) the degree of external support needed for future growth (including developing a BSN program and infrastructure) and a development plan to raise these funds.
- **UC Riverside Medical School**: Council recommended that the School only be approved contingent upon the commitment of new funding sources (funding in addition to existing UC funding streams) that would meet the estimated \$100 million start-up cost and \$25 million per year operating cost for the new Medical School. Council also had other concerns, including the appropriate faculty-student ratio funding formula and the campus's implementation of the dispersed clinical model for the School.
- **UC Riverside School of Public Policy**: While Council expressed reservations about the proposal, it extended a qualified recommendation, pending the successful resolution of the following issues: 1) availability of resources; 2) the proposal made the case for the development of a school, as opposed to the development of new programs within an existing academic division; and 3) a deeper analysis of the proposed curriculum and research focus should be undertaken so that the School can develop into a nationally ranked public policy program, as opposed to public administration.

SENATE PROPOSALS FOR TASK FORCES AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Council approved the formation of a Special Committee of the Academic Senate on Remote and Online Instruction and Residency, which is the product of its review of CCGA/UCEP/UCCC's "*Dialectic on the Use of Remote and Online Instruction for the Delivery of University Curriculum.*" This report discusses possible roles of the Senate in guaranteeing UC quality in remote and online instruction, and also raises questions about residency vis-à-vis the mode of course delivery.
- Council approved the establishment of a Task Force on Academic Senate Membership, as well as its charge and guidelines for task force membership. The Task Force will explore the implications of including non-senate faculty in Senate activities in 2008-09.

REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROPOSALS

Council also reviewed the following administrative proposals:

- *Creating a UC Cyberinfrastructure* by ITGC, which it found lacking in specificity, and noted that it may not be able to guide planning for the University’s information technology infrastructure.
- *Allocating Net Fee Income Received from the DOE National Laboratories*. Council supported the draft principles, and stressed that the income should support UC research activities, broadly defined, including in the humanities and social sciences.
- *Report of the University of California Joint Ad Hoc Committee on International Education*, which it did not endorse. It did endorse the concerns expressed in the accompanying Minority Report, and made a number of recommendations regarding ensuring academic quality while minimizing the impact of budget cuts. It further recommended that a faculty group be empanelled to address the needs of graduate students studying abroad, which was not discussed in the report.
- *Proposed Guidelines on Vendor Relations*. Acknowledging a lack of divisional consensus, Council supported the proposal’s aims, but warned of potential unintended consequences in implementing them.
- *Proposed Transitional Leave Policy for Senior Management Group (SMG) with Underlying Academic Appointments*. Council endorsed the option that would allow SMG members with underlying faculty appointments to accrue Sabbatical Leave credits while working in their respective SMG appointments but require that the faculty rate of pay is used during the leave period.
- *Default Fund for Retirement Savings Plans*, in which it endorsed changing the default fund for future retirement savings contributions to an age-indexed “Pathway” fund.
- Council supported a *Proposal on UC Financial Aid for Undocumented Students*, which would provide need-based financial aid to undocumented students who qualify for in-state tuition.
- Council commented, after systemwide review, on the *Proposed Revisions to the Code of Conduct for the Health Sciences*.
- Council issued a *Statement on Animal Research*, supporting the statement by the President and chancellors.

REVIEW OF THE ACADEMIC PERSONNEL MANUAL (APM)

- APM 220-18.b(4) - Criteria for Professor Step VI and Above Scale. Council endorsed revisions to the proposed changes and clarified that these barrier steps are significant milestones. Its intent is to standardize campus practices to the highest standard.
- APM - 080, Medical Separation; APM - 710, Leaves of Absence/Medical Leave for Academic Appointees Who Do Not Accrue Sick Leave; and APM - 711, Reasonable Accommodation for Academic Appointees with Disabilities, APP 220-85-b, Professor Series; APP 335-10-a, Cooperative Extension Advisor Series; and APP 740-11-c, Leaves of Absence/Sabbatical Leave. Council reviewed and commented on UCOP’s proposed revisions to these APMs. It had no objection to the rescission of APP 350, Postgraduate Research.
- APM 010 – Assembly endorsed adding a footnote to APM 010, addressing Student Freedom of Scholarly Inquiry Principles.

SENATE BYLAWS

Council approved changes to SB 337, Privilege and Tenure—Early Termination.

OLIVER JOHNSON AWARD

The Oliver Johnson Award for Distinguished Leadership in the Academic Senate is given every other year. Professor Gayle Binion (UCSB) and Professor Lawrence Pitts (UCSF) were selected by the

Academic Council and approved by the Assembly as the 2008 co-recipients of the award, presented at the annual Chair's Dinner in July.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNING BODIES

Joint Administrative/Senate Retreat

The Academic Council meets in alternate years with the chancellors and with the executive vice chancellors to discuss matters of joint concern. This year, Council members met with the chancellors to discuss: 1) campus and systemwide leadership effectiveness; 2) academic planning and the comprehensive university; and 3) graduate student profile and support.

The Regents

The Academic Council Chair and Vice Chair executed their roles as faculty representatives to The Regents throughout the year, acting in an advisory capacity on Regents' Standing Committees, and to the Committee of the Whole.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

We express our sincere gratitude to all members of the University of California Office of the President for their hard work and productive collaboration with the Senate over the past year. In particular, we thank these senior UC managers who, as consultants to the Academic Council, were vital to our meetings: former President Robert C. Dynes; Mark G. Yudof, President; Wyatt R. Hume, Provost and Executive Vice President-Academic and Health Affairs; Katherine Lapp, Executive Vice President-Business Operations; and Bruce Darling, Executive Vice President-University Affairs.

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