

ACADEMIC COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE: The Academic Council is the executive committee of the Assembly of the Academic Senate and acts on behalf 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.

During the 2011-12 year, the Academic Council considered multiple initiatives, proposals, and reports. Its final recommendations and reports can be found on the [Academic Senate website](#). Matters of particular import for the year include:

BUDGETARY ISSUES

Council engaged in continued discussion of UC's internal budgetary reforms, known as Funding Streams and Rebenching. In Council's March 2011 response to the administration's [Funding Streams](#) budget initiative, it expressed concern that the "rebenching" of state general funds should occur as soon as possible, and that an enrollment management system should be devised to counter certain incentives of Funding Streams. In August 2011, it forwarded a set of resolutions based on the report of Council's [Implementation Task Force](#), which provided an approach to rebenching and was distributed to the President's Budget Rebenching Committee for consideration. The Rebenching Committee met throughout the fall and concluded its work in March. In May, Council wrote a [letter](#) to President Yudof urging completion, release and systemwide review of the report of the Rebenching Budget Committee. In late June, the [report](#) was released and Council distributed it to be reviewed in the fall of 2012. Council simultaneously distributed a [summary](#) of the main points of the rebenching report and an outline of next steps written by two of the Senate members of the committee. In July, Council unanimously endorsed a document outlining principles and recommendations for [enrollment management in the context of rebenching](#), and approved the formation of a task force of the Academic Council to address issues of enrollment management.

In April, Council forwarded to the president a [Memorial to the Regents](#) requesting that they authorize public advocacy "in support of specific measures that will increase state revenues and specific measures that will prioritize funding for public higher education." 93% of faculty members who voted on the Memorial recommended this course of action. In May, Council unanimously approved asking the president to convey to the Regents that Council urged the Board to [endorse Proposition 30](#), the ballot measure proposed by the governor. In July, the president presented the Senate Memorial to the Regents in the context of his recommendation that they endorse California ballot measure Proposition 30; they subsequently endorsed Proposition 30.

A subset of Council members also participated in regular teleconferences held by Provost and EVC Pitts to brief them on budget issues.

FACULTY WELFARE

The Senate reviewed UCAAD's [salary equity study](#). Many respondents objected to the methodology and/or stated that the divisions have their own approaches to grappling with this issue. In June, Council endorsed UCAAD's proposal that individual campuses study the extent of any salary inequities on the campus and propose strategies to correct them, with plans of action for developing a study to be reported to UCAAD by

November 15, 2012.

The Senate conducted a systemwide review of the [report](#) of the joint Senate-Administration Faculty Salaries Task Force. In April, Council passed [three motions](#) in response. While Council members agreed that raising faculty salaries is vital to maintaining UC's competitiveness, it was divided on whether salary increases should be contingent on the availability of additional resources and how any increases should be distributed.

ADMISSIONS

In December, Council endorsed BOARS' resolution affirming existing UC policy on [admissions guarantees](#). It also endorsed a resolution that campuses should evaluate and select resident and [nonresident](#) applicants according to the same criteria and that admitted nonresidents should compare favorably to admitted California residents at each campus. In March, it endorsed BOARS' resolution to ensure the integrity of the Eligibility in Local Context program.

In February, Council recommended that students be given the opportunity to [self-identify as LGBT](#) on Student Intent to Register forms and all forms completed by matriculated students, but not on admissions documents.

The Senate reviewed a proposal from BOARS that would add two new pathways for transfer in addition to the existing pathway. The two new paths are recognition of SB 1440 AA/AS degrees, and a UC transfer curriculum. After further revisions by BOARS, Council forward it to the Academic Assembly. The Assembly approved the proposal and a [revision to Senate Regulation 476](#), which defines transfer pathways.

GRADUATE EDUCATION

In January, Council considered revisions to the existing [policy on self-supporting graduate degree programs](#) proposed by the administration. Responses to the review of the policy raised broad concerns about the impact of self-supporting programs on the University's core educational mission. Concerns included the need for stricter criteria for the establishment of SSPs, issues of faculty workload and fiscal viability, program quality, and the potential of new self-supporting programs to drain resources from existing state-supported programs. In March, Council unanimously endorsed guidelines that CCGA developed for use by campus Graduate Councils and Committees on Planning and Budget in [reviewing proposals](#) for new Self-Supporting Programs. In June it endorsed CCGA's guidelines for the [conversion](#) of existing graduate degree programs from state-supported to self-supported status and from self-supported to state-supported status.

At the request of the Chair of the Finance Committee of the Board of Regents, the Academic Council established a Task Force on Competitiveness in Academic Graduate Student Support. In June, Council unanimously endorsed the recommendations of the Academic Council Task Force on [Competitiveness in Academic Graduate Student Support](#) (CAGSS), including: (1) waiving Non-resident Supplemental Tuition (NRST) for doctoral students, or, as alternatives, increasing the number of years NRST is waived for international doctoral students or foregoing future tuition increases for international academic doctoral students; (2) not charging NRST to research grants; (3) eliminating the systemwide limits on the number of terms a student may be employed as a graduate student instructor (GSI); and (4) allocating additional resources for net stipends for academic doctoral student support. The report, along with the report of a joint Senate-administration Task Force on Graduate Education Competitiveness, will be presented to the Regents in the fall.

In July, Council wrote to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges objecting to WASC's request for data on graduate programs in anticipation of changes to their requirements for [program reviews](#). Council stated that the data requirements listed in the draft regulations do not provide useful measures of graduate program quality and success and that UC and professional accreditation program review processes are rigorous means of ensuring program quality.

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

In June 2011, Council endorsed UCEP's recommendation that it appoint an independent "blue-ribbon panel" of experts to review and report periodically to the Senate on the progress and results of the evaluation of the Online Instruction Pilot Project. In September, Council approved a charge. In May, Council endorsed [disclaimer language](#) required by BOARS' on marketing materials of campus-affiliated programs offering courses to non-matriculated students. In June, Council recommended that UCOP grant [UCOE a moratorium](#) on repaying its loan so that it can focus its attention on programmatic issues and ensuring quality, rather than accommodating non-matriculated students.

In [October](#), Council issued a response critical of aspects of the proposed revisions to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation review handbook and urged WASC to maintain its tradition of local determination and assessment of institutional learning goals. In January, Council again wrote to WASC stressing its [position](#) that reliance on external peer review should be the primary tool for validating the quality of undergraduate programs, rather than abstract metrics. It included a [white paper](#) on the subject by UCEP, and a [proposal](#) for adapting UC's existing program review process to meet WASC's accreditation review requirements.

In the fall, UCEP Chair Wudka submitted a proposed [revision to SR 610](#) for systemwide review to clarify that "residency" in the regulation refers to courses approved by the relevant UC Senate bodies, rather than physical presence on campus. The campuses responded that physical presence should be a requirement to qualify for residency. In response, UCEP revised the wording to give campuses flexibility to clarify physical presence rules and to accommodate online courses. In May, Council referred the proposed amendment back to UCEP for further revision.

In July Council endorsed UCEP's proposed changes to the Compendium's section to clarify the procedures for [undergraduate program discontinuances](#) for programs with unique titles or those that are the last of their kind in the UC system, and recommended adoption by the Academic Planning Council.

RESEARCH ISSUES

In June, Council endorsed UCORP's Research Mission statement. It also endorsed the recommendations of the [Principles, Processes, and Assessments of Universitywide Research](#) (PPA) Task Force, the drafting of which UCORP significantly influenced.

In April, Council commented on the external review of the UC Observatories (UCO), after consultation with UCPB, UCORP and the astronomy faculty. Also in April, Council issued a statement of support for the [academic freedom](#) of researchers who work on controversial subjects to pursue their work free from harassment. Council [recommended](#) that the funds generated by the University's management of the national laboratories be allocated to research projects identified through the Laboratory Fee Research Program.

GOVERNANCE

In November, Council unanimously adopted four statements regarding UC's response to campus [protests](#).

In January, Council voted to ask UCOC to consider dissolving UCCC on the grounds that its charge is obsolete, and to inform UCCC of this recommendation. UCOC subsequently recommended that UCCC be disbanded, contingent on Council establishing a work group to assign the parts of its charge to existing standing committees. In April, Council voted unanimously to recommend to the Academic Assembly that UCCC be disbanded and to establish a work group to determine which parts of UCCC's charge should be assigned to other standing committees. In May, Council proposed amendments to the bylaws that reassigned UCCC's charge to standing committees and voted unanimously to forward the proposed revisions to the Assembly for consideration at its June 2012 meeting. The Assembly referred the matter back to Council, with instructions to consider formation of an information technology committee as an alternative to UCCC.

In March, the San Francisco division announced that full-time faculty in the Adjunct and Health Sciences Clinical series at the Associate and Full Professor levels at the San Francisco campus would be considered Senate members effective July 1, 2012 based on the division's interpretation of Standing Order of the Regents 105.1. Council appointed a committee to devise a charge for a task force to attempt to address some of the concerns of the San Francisco division. Simultaneously, Chair Anderson and Vice Chair Powell requested that UCR&J consider the issues arising from the division's announcement. UCR&J issued a draft ruling in June and a final ruling in July stating that UCSF's proposed action is inconsistent both with the Standing Orders of the Regents and with Senate bylaws regarding membership. The ruling will be reported to the Academic Assembly at its next meeting.

SENATE TASK FORCES AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Senate members participated on the following task forces and special committees:

- Joint Senate/Administrative Work Group on Rebenching
- UC Online Education Advisory Committee and Work Groups
- Joint Senate/Administrative Task Force on Salary Scales
- Academic Council Task Force on Competitiveness in Academic Graduate Student Support
- Joint Work Group on Academic Graduate Student Issues
- Provost Search Committee
- UCSD and UCB Chancellor Search Committees

REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS AND INITIATIVES

After completing a systemwide review, Council [responded](#) to the Faculty Diversity Working Group [report](#). It strongly recommended restoring funding to the President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program and increasing the stipends for its fellows, and emphasized that provosts, deans and department chairs play a critical role in achieving diversity in faculty recruitment. It commented on other best practices identified in the report, and recommended that no changes be made to APM 210 pending further discussion in the fall.

REVIEW OF THE ACADEMIC PERSONNEL MANUAL (APM)

Based on responses to a systemwide review, Council strongly [opposed](#), as written, the proposal for a new section of the APM, [APM 668](#), which would allow academic departments to use non-state funds to provide additional salary for general campus faculty, similar to the health sciences compensation plan. However, Council recognized the need to find ways to ways to better compensate faculty and improve retention.

Council discussed the proposed revisions to [APM 670](#) (Health Sciences Compensation Plan), and [responded](#) with specific concerns. Academic Personnel submitted a revised version to the Senate for a targeted review. In response, UCFW submitted a letter reiterating their concern that deans would have too much power over the advisory committee. Vice Provost Carlson then circulated a proposal to amend the revision so that deans would appoint no more than half of the members. Council unanimously endorsed the proposed revision of APM 670 as amended by Vice Provost Carlson.

In January, Council requested that the administration develop a proposal to rescind certain subsections of APM 133, which, in part, restrict UC campuses from hiring in certain academic titles a faculty member denied tenure by another UC campus, and circulate the proposal for systemwide review.

Council also responded to proposed revisions to APM 200 and 205 on the [recall](#) of retired academic employees. Council approved technical revisions to [APM Sections 035 and 190](#), Appendix A-1, to ensure consistency with existing federal and state law. Council responded to proposed revisions to APM 530 and 710-11, [objecting](#) to language in APM 530 that unnecessarily restricts the criteria for University sponsorship of foreign faculty members. Council also [responded](#) to proposed changes to APM 010, 015 and 016. It strongly supported the addition of language to APMs 010 and 015 as an essential clarification of academic freedom in light of recent court cases, but opposed the proposed revisions to APM 016.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER GOVERNING BODIES

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. In addition, Regent Ruiz attended the May Council meeting.

ICAS

The Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates is a group representing the faculty Senates of the California Community Colleges, California State University, and the University of California. The group was particularly active in advocacy efforts and participated in ongoing efforts to ease transfer between the CCCs and CSU or UC.

SENATE POSITIONS ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

- Council forwarded to Senior Vice President for External Relations Dan Dooley UCOLASC's letter objecting to the [Research Works Act](#) (HR 3699), which would prohibit open access mandates for federally funded research, overturning NIH's public access policy. The letter also supported The Federal Research Public Access Act, which would make federally funded research papers publicly available within six months of publication in a journal.
- The Senate [opposed](#) AB 2132, which would have required that UC adopt tenure policies to reward service activities.

- The Senate strongly [opposed](#) SB 721 (Lowenthal), which would have required the higher education segments to adhere to three educational goals defined by the legislature, with oversight by the Legislative Analyst's Office.
- The Senate [opposed](#) SB 1052 and SB 1053 (Steinberg), which would have established, without providing funding, the California Open Education Resources Council and a California Digital Open Source Library.
- The Senate [opposed](#) SCA 22, which proposed a constitutional amendment to limit out-of-state freshman enrollment to no more than ten percent of each year's incoming class at each UC campus.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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