

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

I. Announcements

▪ **Mary Croughan, Academic Council Chair**

1. **Furlough/Salary Reduction Options.** Chair Croughan thanked Council members for their heroic efforts to review and comment on the furlough and salary cut options on such short notice. The President is holding the Regents item on this issue until he has reviewed the Senate's comments and feels assured that our concerns have been addressed. President Yudof received over 1,200 faculty messages and is trying to respond to every comment.
2. **Letter from UC Members of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine.** Last night the Senate office received a copy of a letter addressed to the Governor signed by 300 UC faculty who are members of the National Academies and the Institute of Medicine expressing deep concern about the implications for California of defunding the University.

II. Agenda

ACTION: Item III, Procedures for Review of Chancellors, was moved to the consent calendar, and the revised agenda was approved unanimously.

III. Procedures for Review of Chancellors

ISSUE: *Following the Academic Council's June endorsement of the recommendations of the Stewardship Review Task Force, the Task Force revised the document outlining procedures for the Review of Chancellors.*

ACTION: This item was moved to the consent calendar and was approved unanimously without discussion.

IV. Furlough/Salary Reduction Options

ISSUE: Systemwide comments on President Yudof's Options for Furloughs and Salary Reductions were received. Council was asked to comment on, revise, and approve a draft letter to the President summarizing the Senate's comments.

DISCUSSION: All division and committee chairs summarized their primary concerns for inclusion in the letter. Council identified areas of agreement and difference and discussed the primary themes that the letter to President Yudof should emphasize. Members overwhelmingly agreed that any furlough/salary reduction plan should be temporary and should protect retirement benefits. While the Senate is opposed to the overall plan, the vast majority favor furloughs that are visible to the public and that affect

services. A majority also favored exempting employees whose salaries are paid through grants and contracts. In addition, Council members emphasized the devastating impact that the cuts will have on the quality of the University (including difficulties recruiting and retaining faculty). They urged the President to create a strategic plan that examines alternative revenue sources, as well as areas that could be cut, and a long-range plan that re-envision the University, while preserving quality, affordability, and access.

On a related subject, a division chair raised the fact that a group of department chairs at UCSD released a letter on the budget crisis that included the suggestion of “different budget priorities” for those campuses they designated as primarily teaching institutions. Alternatively, they suggested that UC close one or more campuses in order to reallocate funds to other campuses. UCSD’s divisional chair apologized and stated definitively that the letter was not issued or endorsed by the Senate. He clarified that it represents the views of individual faculty members, was circulated for endorsement by its main author, and should not be construed to speak for the Senate or for the majority of UCSD’s faculty.

ACTION: Council unanimously voted to recommend that graduate student employees, post-doctoral fellows, and health sciences trainees be exempt from any salary reduction.

ACTION: Council approved (with 1 abstention) sending the letter conveying the Senate’s comments to President Yudof, incorporating the revisions discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Attest: Mary S. Croughan, Academic Council Chair

Minutes prepared by Clare Sheridan, Senior Policy Analyst