



Notes From the Academic Senate Chair

Gayle Binion (gayle.binion@ucop.edu)

In this issue of *The Senate Source* I had intended to report on the work of a variety of special-function Academic Senate task forces and subcommittees. These *ad hoc* groups are addressing such concerns as UC health insurance and retirement programs, oversight of the national laboratories, faculty responsibility for course descriptions, etc. But as important as these activities of the Senate are, I will defer that column to the January 2003 issue.

Events of the past few days have suggested a far different focus for this column, the retirement of President Richard Atkinson. Taking the floor just prior to the midday break of the Regents' meeting on Wednesday, November 13th, Atkinson announced that he would leave the presidency in October 2003. The timing of the announcement allows for a healthy period of time in which to seek his replacement. But replacing the current president, a superb scholar, and a talented and seasoned academic administrator, will not be an easy job.

During his seven years at the top of the UC organizational chart, Atkinson has successfully managed all manner of institutional challenges. UC Merced, the first new UC campus in nearly four decades, has been founded and is scheduled to open in fall 2004. Eight of the ten current UC Chancellors were recruited under his direction. He has also initiated and shepherded myriad enhancements to our research and service missions to the State of California, the nation and indeed, the world. These include, but are not limited to, the Industry-University Cooperative Research Program, which promotes partnerships with industry in fields that are essential to the California economy, and the California Institutes for Science and Innovation, an initiative that will put new multi-campus research programs at the forefront of emerging ideas in science and technology. And to serve the K-12 educational mission of the State, President Atkinson has overseen a variety of very successful UC programs that enhance professional development for teachers and thereby enrich the educational experience of the students they teach.

But no area of his accomplishments will likely be remembered more than his effect on UC admissions. These policies have evolved

(continued on page 2)

Regents Hear First-Year Report on Comprehensive Review

At the November 14th meeting of the Regents, Barbara Sawrey, Chair of the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), presented the findings of the committee's report "First-Year Implementation of Comprehensive Review in Freshman Admissions." She reported that the new admissions policy was successfully implemented at the six selective UC campuses.

Comprehensive review, which evaluates the complete achievement record of all UC applicants, was adopted by the Regents in November 2001 and took effect for students entering fall 2002. At that time, the Academic Senate committed to providing a status report after the first year of implementation.

"Academic criteria remained predominant, and high academic standards were maintained," said Sawrey. In its review of campus policies and implementation procedures, BOARS observed that: 1) campuses went to great lengths to ensure the consistency of their admissions decisions and the integrity of their processes; 2) academic preparation, as measured by traditional indicators such as GPA and test scores, has remained nearly stable; and 3) the degree to which the selective campuses are accessible to low income or educationally disadvantaged students has not declined overall and has in fact increased on some campuses.

As the implementation of comprehensive review moves forward, BOARS will continue to monitor the issues and outcomes that emerge. BOARS has identified several areas that will require further study including: the relationship between admissions and student success at UC, the role of hardship in the admissions process, the clarity of the process, and the verification of information provided by students on the application. Sawrey noted that the development of a verification process has already begun; two pilot projects, which demonstrated the overwhelming reliability of the information provided were completed this year and a new systemwide verification process will be used in the fall 2003 admissions cycle.

Regents agreed that the report answered many of the questions that have been asked about comprehensive review. Several Regents also said that the University needs to communicate the admissions process more clearly to the public and dispel concerns that it may be biased or unfair.

A recently passed concurrent resolution of the State Legislature calls upon UC to implement comprehensive review at the graduate and professional school level. The Academic Senate will convene a task force to review graduate and professional school admissions guidelines and principles.

To read BOARS' first-year report, go to

<http://www.ucop.edu/regents/regmeet/nov02/302attach.pdf>



Academic Senate Chair, Gayle Binion, (right) with BOARS Chair, Barbara Sawrey, at the Regents' meeting.

UPDATES AND EVENTS

UCRP Service Credit Deadline Academic personnel have until Dec. 31, 2002 to request or appeal their service credit allocation. For details go to:

<http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/news/retirement/reminder.html>

New Website for Faculty Work/Life Issues For information on policies and programs to help balance the needs of work and family see: <http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/family/welcome.html>

UC Health Care Plans Have Changed For important information on changes to medical plan options for 2003 go to: http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/open_enrollment/index.html

over the past five years in several directions, each of which has enhanced opportunities for the students of California to attend the University. The President has worked closely with the Academic Senate on our analyses of admissions policies and recommendations for change. During his tenure, and with his full support and that of the Board of Regents, we have changed the relative weights of the components in the "eligibility" formula (to enhance its predictive validity), we have added Eligibility in Local Context (to offer admission to the top 4% of students at each high school), we have launched comprehensive review (to equalize the breadth of the criteria applied to applicants in the "selection" process), and we have adopted the Dual Admissions Program (to encourage transfer of community college students to UC). And, perhaps his greatest individual contribution to the admissions dialogue, is that President Atkinson, a cognitive scientist with exceptional credibility on the subject of "testing," called upon the entire nation to rethink the content and role of entrance exams. While the Academic Senate is still at work on a variety of admissions-related questions, including reform of the SAT I, we can thank President Atkinson for his encouragement of our vigilance in protecting both quality and access.

The Academic Senate wishes Richard and Rita Atkinson well in the planning of the next chapter of their lives.

Faculty Have Prominent Role in UCM Inaugural/Founding Event

On October 25, 2002 over 1500 well-wishers gathered under a gleaming tent on the future site of the UC Merced campus to witness Carol Tomlinson-Keasey's investiture as the school's founding Chancellor.

The academic procession was led by the Chair of the Universitywide Academic Senate Task Force on UC Merced, Peter Berck (UCB), who served as the grand marshal. Berck, together with UCM's founding Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, David Ashley, headed the procession of over 180 academics and dignitaries. Members of the Senate's Task Force on UC Merced, who are key advisors on the academic planning for the new campus, participated, as well as the past chair of the Task Force, Fred Spiess, (UCSD/SIO). (The Task Force is composed of faculty representatives from each of the nine UC campuses and from eight Standing Committees of the Academic Senate).

The "official party," which included the Chairman of the Regents, the President of the University, the State Governor, and the Chancellor was led by the Academic Senate Chair, Gayle Binion, and the Senate Vice Chair, Lawrence Pitts.

Senate Chair Binion offered official greetings on behalf of the UC Faculty. She noted that while rain had been in the forecast, the sun was shining brightly. "May this be an omen that the sun will always shine on UC Merced," she said. A ceremonial groundbreaking followed the inauguration.

Opening in September 2004, UCM has raised nearly \$30 million in private grants and endowments to date.

For more information about the Senate's role in the academic planning for UC Merced, go to: <http://www.ucop.edu/senate/ucmerced/>



Current and former Task Force Chairs, Peter Berck and Fred Spiess, with Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey.

Academic Senate
University of California
1111 Franklin St., 12th Flr.
Oakland, CA 94607
Phone: 510-987-0155
<http://www.ucop.edu/senate>

THE SENATE SOURCE
is published bi-monthly during the academic year (September - June), for UC faculty by the University of California Systemwide Senate.

Gayle Binion, 2002-03 Chair
Systemwide Academic Senate

Brenda Foust, Co-editor
Betty Marton, Co-editor

Contributing Writer:
Emily Hung, Senate Analyst

Acknowledgement:
Many thanks to Martin Backstrom and Michael Barnes, Office of Research, for their help with *The Senate Source*.

Your comments are welcome.
Send to: senatenews@ucop.edu

Under Senate Review

UC Policies

- » Proposed "Policy on Ownership of Course Materials":
<http://www.ucop.edu/copyright/courseownership/index.html>
- » APM 390/Postdoctoral Scholars: <http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/apm/postdoc.html>
- » APM 715/Family Medical Leave Policy:
<http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/apm/review.html>
- » APM 740/Sabbatical Leave Policy:
<http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/apm/review.html>
- » "Proposal to Allow Part-Time Enrollment for Students Transferring to UC from a CCC"
- » "Proposal for Use of Supplemental Subject Matter Tests in the UC Admissions Process" -- out for preliminary review to all faculty; send comments to: senatenews@ucop.edu For proposal, go to: <http://www.ucop.edu/senate/suptests.pdf>

Educational and Research Programs

- » California Master Plan for Education — Final Report: www.sen.ca.gov/masterplan/
- » Report on the first Five-Year Review of the Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) of the Division of Natural Resources (DANR)
- » Racial Privacy Initiative (RPI) — The Senate is evaluating potential effects of the initiative on admissions, instruction, and research. Go to: <http://www.ucop.edu/senate/current.html>
- » Proposed "Model Development Plan for the UC Center in Sacramento"
- » Faculty Instructional Activities — A joint administrative-Senate task force has been formed to review the State Audit of the Partnership Agreement with respect to teaching workload and course reporting
- » Course Descriptions — A Senate task force has been impaneled to develop standards for course descriptions and guidelines for faculty responsibility