



Notes From the Academic Senate Chair Gayle Binion

Two events during March were of major significance for the work of the systemwide Academic Senate. The first Assembly meeting of the year was held on March 12th, and on the 26th the Academic Council convened the "first biennial" Council-COVC retreat. Important policy matters and issues of mutual concern were addressed at each of these meetings.

Academic Assembly, March 12th, UCB

The Academic Assembly performed one of its most important functions when it elected the next Vice Chair/Chair-elect of the Assembly and Council. George Blumenthal, Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at UCSC for the past three decades, with an extraordinary level and quality of service to the Academic Senate, was selected for the 2003-05 term. Currently the divisional chair at Santa Cruz, George has served on a wide variety of Senate committees on his campus and systemwide. These include most prominently UC Privilege & Tenure (Chair, 1999-2001) and UC Rules and Jurisdiction (1982-86). He is currently chairing the Senate's Bylaws Task Force. The [proposed bylaw changes](#) were discussed by George at the Assembly meeting and will be on the "action" agenda for the May 28th Assembly meeting. The revisions are focused on two major aspects of Senate processes: moving to electronic communications and voting; and streamlining and rationalizing systemwide committee structures and tenure of members.

The Assembly also discussed the [proposed revision to APM-015](#) concerning sexual relationships between faculty and students. This was, as one might imagine, a lively discussion and we continue to invite comments. We expect this revision to the Faculty Code of Conduct to be on the Assembly's agenda in May. Also addressed at the Assembly meeting was the work of the Professorial Steps Task Force. Chair Richard Watts, UCSB, updated the group on the review of the "barrier step" that is underway and upon completion will be brought to Academic Council and Assembly. Finally, Robert Post, UCB, made a presentation on the work of the Task Force on Course Descriptions and on the [proposed revision of APM-010](#) that grew out of this task force. The new statement on Academic Freedom will, if adopted, emphasize that scholarship is judged not by the motivations of the scholar but by the competency of the work, specifically rejecting the existing formulation that protects only "disinterested" academic work.

Academic Council-COVC Retreat, March 26th

At this first joint retreat with the Executive/Senior Vice Chancellors from all of the ten campuses, the Academic Council had the opportunity to discuss three topics of mutual interest: Phased Retirement,

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ACADEMIC FREEDOM A New Policy for UC Faculty

A proposed new statement on Academic Freedom ([revised APM-010](#)), has been forwarded by President Atkinson to the Academic Senate for review and comment. Drafted by Professor Robert Post of Boalt Hall School of Law at the Berkeley campus, the new formulation would replace that issued in 1944 ([current APM-010](#)), by then President Robert Sproul, which has been deemed "outmoded." President Atkinson reported to the Academic Assembly on March 12th that in the process of reviewing events surrounding a controversial writing course at Berkeley last fall, it became clear that the existing statement on Academic Freedom was not useful in addressing contemporary questions. Professor Post, a member of the Course Description Task Force which reviewed the questions raised by the Berkeley course, agreed with this assessment. At the request of the President, he has been actively engaged with faculty colleagues and the Office of the General Counsel in drafting the revised statement. A specialist in First Amendment theory and constitutional jurisprudence, as well as a past general counsel of the American Association of University Professors, Post was a "natural" for this assignment. Now out for review at the campuses and within systemwide Academic Senate committees, the matter will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Assembly of the Academic Senate on May 28th at UCLA.



Professor Robert Post, at the Academic Assembly meeting.

UPDATES AND EVENTS

President Atkinson's Briefing to the March 12 Assembly

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/assembly/mar2003/presrpt.pdf>

First Founding Faculty at Merced

http://www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/03172003_uc_merced_appoints_first.asp

UC Education Abroad Study Center Director Appointments, and information on other EAP-related activities:

<http://www/universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/news/source/eapannounce.pdf>

University Policy and State Law Governing Intellectual Property and Consulting <http://www.ucop.edu/ott/consult.html>

NEW WEBSITE FOR SYSTEMWIDE SENATE

A Message from the Senate's Executive Director, Maria Bertero-Barceló

There are no bells and whistles, flashing graphics or trendy web tools, but we hope you will agree that the new Senate website is quickly accessible, intuitive, and filled with useful information. In times of limited resources, it is our commitment to effectively manage our funds so that this website will be maintained with timely, interesting, helpful and the most important, updated information. The intention of this site is to be a resource not only for the benefit of the Systemwide Senate Committee members, but also for the faculty at-large and the community. The website is still under construction, and we welcome any suggestions you may have on how best this site can serve your needs. Please send your comments to: mbertero@ucop.edu. Visit our new website at: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate>

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Integrity, and Shared Governance. The proposal for Phased Retirement was developed by UCFW and presented by its Chair, Mark Traugott (UCSC). The goal of the plan is to allow senior faculty to phase out teaching and research in a gradual way over a three-to-five-year period. It is also projected that a plan which combines partial UCRS income with partial salary would aid in providing teaching power on the campuses during this time of growth while we are recruiting the 7,000 new faculty that it is estimated UC will need. The major concerns about such a program were with respect to space constraints, and the possibility that if it is too attractive it will defeat its very *raison d'être*. In contrast, the discussion of Integrity, which focused exclusively on the proposed prohibition on sexual relationships between faculty and their students, elicited very few concerns. The Vice Chancellors expressed support for the Senate's work on this matter and encouraged us to move forward with it. Finally, the discussion of Shared Governance suggested that "one size does not fit all;" patterns and processes of senate-administration interaction vary from campus to campus. But there was also a great sense that we can learn "best practices" from each other.

Historically, there had been a biennial retreat of the Academic Council with the Council of Chancellors. With this Council-COVC retreat, it is hoped that the Senate has begun a process of meeting with the COC and COVC in alternate years.

As always I value your ideas, concerns and suggestions at gayle.binion@ucop.edu.

Council's Response to New Master Plan for Education

In 1999 the California Legislature established the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education, a committee that was charged with creating a long-term, strategic plan for a single, seamless system of education from pre-kindergarten through postsecondary education. After nearly four years of work, the Joint Committee issued its final report on September 9, 2002 with recommendations for a [new California Master Plan for Education](#). The 2002 report makes California the first state in the nation to create a framework to guide policy for all aspects of education, from early childhood through higher education. With the report complete, the California Legislature reauthorized the Joint Committee to continue for two more years to help develop the legislation necessary to implement parts of the 2002 report.

After the Joint Committee released its final report, the Academic Council created a task force to evaluate how this report differs from the [1960 California Master Plan](#) for Higher Education (which has governed higher education in California for the past 40 years), and how legislation based on the report might impact the University of California and its faculty. In February 2003, the Academic Council released its report, "[Response to the September 9, 2002 Report of the Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education](#)." The report incorporates comments from both the Systemwide and Divisional Senates.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR HEALTH SCIENCES FACULTY

The UC Health Sciences Task Force has released its report, "Recommendations for Improving Retirement Benefits for UC Health Sciences Faculty." The task force was convened by the Administration in fall 2001 to address concerns expressed by the health sciences faculty about their retirement compensation. The task force has recommended three options for improving their retirement benefits. The report is likely to generate wide interest because, depending on which of the three options is adopted, there may be additional costs to the University of California Retirement System (UCRS), and adjustments to projections concerning contributions by UC employees.

To access the report, the results of a survey of other institutions, etc.:

<http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/taskforce.html>

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Your comments are welcome.

Send to: senatenews@ucop.edu

Under Senate Review

Unless otherwise noted, send comments to your [Divisional Chair](#) or relevant [Divisional Committee](#). The requested response date follows each listing.

- ▶ APM 010 — Proposed revision to University's Statement on Academic Freedom (**May 15**):
<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/underreview/apm010prop.pdf>
- ▶ APM 310 — Proposed revision to Professional Research Series (**April 21**):
<http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/apm/review.html>
- ▶ APM 311 — Proposal to add Project Scientist as a new research series (**April 21**):
<http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/apm/review.html>
- ▶ Report on President's Summit on Faculty Gender Equity (**April 21**):
<http://www.ucop.edu/pressummit/>
- ▶ Recommendations for Improving Retirement Benefits for UC Health Sciences Faculty (**May 7**):
<http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/taskforce.html>
- ▶ Proposal to Streamline the Course Major Articulation Process Between UC and CCC (**May 12**):
<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/underreview/articulation.pdf>
- ▶ Committee on Research Policy Subcommittee's Interim Report on the DOE Labs (**May 12**):
<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/underreview/ucorplab.pdf>
- ▶ Proposed Revisions to the Bylaws of the Systemwide Academic Senate (**Open**):
<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/underreview/propbylawrev.pdf>

For a comprehensive list, see: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/underreview.html>