

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ACADEMIC SENATE

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October 28, 2004

**ROBERT C. DYNES
PRESIDENT**

Re: Academic Council Recommendations for the 2005-2006 UC Budget

Dear Bob,

As one of its first orders of business this fall, the Academic Council considered how the expected increases in the University's 2005-06 budget could best be applied. The University Committee on Planning and Budget and the University Committee on Faculty Welfare were asked to take the lead early this academic year in formulating budget recommendations so that Council might act speedily enough to have the Senate's position available at the time the proposed UC budget is put before the Regents at their meeting in November. After discussion of the committees' recommendations and other proposals at its October 20 meeting, the Academic Council unanimously agreed that, as a combined and single priority, faculty and staff salaries (including both merits and COLAs) *and* graduate student support, should be given highest consideration in the allocation of the planned 3% increase in 05-06 state funding as well as the additional funds retained from increased student fees. In conjoining these three items into a single priority, the Academic Council acknowledges the comparable importance of faculty, staff and graduate students as resources essential to maintaining the quality of the university, and recognizes them as elements that are interlinked.

As you are aware, UC faculty salaries lag significantly behind the salaries at our comparison institutions, and in the past three years, UC staff have received neither merit nor COLA increases. The planned budget augmentation will in a modest way begin to compensate for salary inequities and supplement recruitment efforts in both groups, and perhaps will have a greater effect in boosting faculty and staff morale. Council also feels that support for graduate students, which figures so prominently in our discussions of preserving the excellence of the University and advancing its research mission, cannot be any less of a priority. Graduate education at present has been characterized as being in crisis, and in this case, even a modest amount of added support can potentially make a significant difference.

When the University was facing a very uncertain budgetary future last year, the Regents and the Senate in separate statements of principle, both placed maintaining the quality of the university foremost above other considerations. That principle is at the core of the Senate's current recommendation.

Best Regards,

George Blumenthal, Chair
Academic Council

Copy Lawrence Hershman, Vice President – Budget
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