

**Academic Senate Chair Robert May**  
**Remarks to the University of California Board of Regents**  
**September 2018**

Thank you Chair Kieffer and members of the Board.

Each year at the September meeting of the Board of Regents, the Chair of the Academic Senate has the distinct honor of introducing to the Board the new Vice-Chair of the Academic Senate and Faculty Representative to the Board. This year, I have the pleasure of introducing Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Distinguished Professor of Sociology at UC Santa Barbara, whom Chair Kieffer and President Napolitano have already graciously welcomed. Kum-Kum received her doctorate from King's College, Cambridge, and has been on the faculty at UCSB since 1991. Her research focuses on globalization, women and international development, cultural studies, and critical social psychology, areas in which she has widely published. Her Academic Senate service record is extensive; most notably Kum-Kum served two terms as Chair of the Santa Barbara division. Currently, Kum-Kum's research is channeled through cinema, and she is an accomplished, award-winning film-maker. Among her films is *The Shape of Water* – unfortunately not the Academy Award winner – but an exceptional documentary about women confronting destructive development with a passion for change. Chocolate lovers, architecture buffs and intrepid travelers are also touched by Kum-Kum's films: *Nothing Like Chocolate*, about a chocolatier in Grenada, *Lutah*, about Santa Barbara's first licensed female architect, and *We Are Galapagos*, about conservation efforts by the islands' inhabitants. Join me in welcoming Kum-Kum.

For the Academic Senate, the foundation of The University of California's system of shared governance is built on the foundation laid by Regents By-Law 40, which establishes the Academic Senate. By-Law 40 defines the authorities and advisory capacities vested in the Senate by which the faculty are incorporated into the governance of the university. The Senate's obligation to set conditions for admission to UC is one of its most critically important responsibilities, specified in Regents By-Law 40.1.

Last Spring, President Napolitano, as part of her sesquicentennial challenges for UC, challenged the Academic Senate to develop a systemwide transfer guarantee for students from California Community Colleges who satisfy requirements set by UC designed to foster preparation for academic success at UC. This guarantee, for which students must meet designated GPAs and have fulfilled a transfer pathway in their major field, was subsequently memorialized by President Napolitano and CCC Chancellor Ortiz Oakley. The Academic Senate's responsibility for admission to UC is carried out by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), with final approval falling to the Academic Assembly of the Senate. BOARS, in concert with the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP), will develop a systemwide transfer guarantee, including setting GPAs, that respects Regents Policy 2101, which requires admission of students up to our capacity to maintain quality of instruction, and Regents Policies 2104 and 2108, that set the primacy of holistic comprehensive review for admission to UC. Moreover, these committees will be working with an ad-hoc Senate/Administrative Implementation Coordinating committee to ensure a timely roll-out of the guarantee for students planning on transferring to UC. I am glad to report that we are on schedule to meet President Napolitano's request that the transfer guarantee be on the books for students entering a community college in September 2019. The Academic Senate is looking forward to cooperative interactions with our colleagues from the CCC Academic Senate and the CCC administration, especially on the all-important areas of advising and outreach, to bring clear awareness of the opportunities of transfer to UC to an increasingly broad range of potential applicants.

Additionally in the area of admissions, the Academic Senate will also be taking up, on President Napolitano's request, a thorough review of the value of standardized testing as a predictor of academic

success. Again, responsibility will fall on the shoulders of BOARS and UCEP, along with the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE).

At the Academic Senate's recent retreats for Senate divisional and committee chairs and vice-chairs, a full slate of issues falling within the Senate's authorities and advisory purview were discussed. Time permits mentioning only a few. The continued enhancement of faculty diversity and equity remains at the top of the Senate's priorities, as do issues of faculty welfare, including competitive faculty compensation, faculty housing, pension management, and the well-being of the active and retiree health programs that cover all employees. In the latter area, we are particularly concerned with access to quality health care at the Merced campus, along with access for students to adequate mental and behavioral health services on all campuses. Open-access for scholarly materials, on-line education, support for graduate education and the balance of resources between state and self-supported graduate degree programs are issues of key importance. Having a principled approach governing the placement of system-wide programs with academic content continues to be a concern; the Senate appreciates President Napolitano's strong affirmation of the role of shared governance processes in the evaluation of these programs in the UCOP Restructuring effort. The Academic Senate is keenly following the development of the university's multi-year budgeting plan, and looks forward to continued cooperation with the administration in support of State reinvestment in the university in order to adequately maintain and enhance our academic infrastructure.

As you can see, the Academic Senate's plate is full with our share of shared governance, and I am looking forward to discussing with the Regents our progress on these issues, and others that will come our way, during the course of the year.

In concluding my remarks, I would like to cite the following remark due to President David Gardner:

"If one examines the structure of American universities, how they are organized and how they go about their business, it is fair to say that there is nothing unusual about the way in which the University of California has organized itself – except for the Academic Senate. That is special. The Academic Senate assures the faculty of a strong voice in University affairs; it is an indispensable partner in an authentic system of shared governance without peer among American universities. This arrangement protects the University's academic freedoms and helps to preserve and enhance the excellence of its teaching, research and public service."

Noteworthy in this remark is the recognition of the shared governance role of the Academic Senate as the "secret sauce" of the institutional strength of the university. But it also recognizes the great responsibilities that are placed on the Academic Senate. The Academic Senate – the faculty of the University of California – embraces both these roles and responsibilities, as it seeks to bring the university to even greater heights of accomplishment and distinction.

Thank you Chair Kieffer. This concludes my remarks.