December 10, 2009

Harry C. Powell
Professor of Pathology
Chair, UC Systemwide Academic Senate
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Harry:

REPORT OF THE SYSTEMWIDE UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS TASKFORCE

The above report was sent for review to the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) and Preparatory Education. CEP found the report thorough and instructive. In addition, the Committee considers this as a very timely document for UCR as we are currently in the process of implementing methods for measuring learning outcomes and implementing assessment procedures, as required by our accreditation agency. CEP agreed with the Report that the development of learning outcomes should be done at the departmental level; the campus role should be to provide the infrastructure for departments and programs to use the information gathered to improve their teaching effectiveness.

The Committee also agreed that campus-wide learning achievement measures would provide a useful addition to the ones to be obtained by departments and programs. In contrast with the Task Force’s conclusion, the CEP considered the Collegiate Learning Assessment as a useful though incomplete tool in this respect. Several complementary measures were discussed, including the possibility of asking (and subsidizing) undergraduates to take the GRE examinations early and late in their careers. The Committee did not attempt to construct a concrete plan for implementing such processes as this would lie beyond the scope of the discussion.

Sincerely yours,

Anthony W. Norman
Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences; and Chair of the Riverside Division

CC: Martha Kendall Winnacker, Executive Director of the Academic Senate
Sellyna Ehlers, Director of UCR Academic Senate office