MEETING: The Riverside Division of the Academic Senate met on Thursday, November 29, 2001, at 2:10 p.m. in the Science Library, Room 240. Chairman Irwin W. Sherman presided.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Regular meeting of the May 31, 2001, meeting were approved as distributed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHANCELLOR: Chancellor Raymond L. Orbach spoke on the budget situation. He noted that the full report was on the UCR/UCOP website and encouraged everyone to look at it. The budget cuts for this year, 2001-2002 may occur approximately mid-year although the magnitude of the cuts is unknown at this time. How the campus prepares for these cuts is very important. Chancellor Orbach said that UC’ budget has never been fully restored after VERIP and it still has an effect on what we are doing now. Indeed, UC has been working very hard to repair the budget cuts from the 90’s. The Governor's May revise is expected to reflect political exigencies and it will probably be September before the final budget is known. However, we will be formulating our plans for this year’s budget cycle as quickly as possible.

Chancellor Orbach said that Graduate Student support needs to increase to prevent further deterioration of the graduate program across the system. Student fees have gone down 10% in the last few years. The partnership gap of $94 million wasn't funded this year. He said that the governor may be considering as much as a 15% reduction for 2002-03; of course, he said we hope for much less. There are several possible ways to cut the UC budget, none of which are desirable and all of which threaten quality. To limit salary increases for staff and faculty would be injurious to the institution. Delaying summer instruction would be bad as the longer we go without it, the more chance there is of not doing it altogether. Increasing student fees is not palatable. Reducing entering class size is not feasible if we hope to honor the Master Plan and admit all eligible students. On a brighter note, Chancellor Orbach said that he believes the governor will fund the enrollment increase.

The Chancellor believes that the campus can best prepare for difficult financial times by saving cash (recommended 1% this year) and slowing down spending in nonacademic areas. The Budget Process will stay in place and there will be an allotment of $6-7 million in permanent allocations to protect priorities. The Process is expected to provide a clear statement of campus priorities.

Chancellor Orbach stated that the Capital Program looks pretty good as state funding for this area is separate from that for the operating budget. Engineering II may be moved ahead and the Biology Building may move forward one year. The Physical Sciences Building is already funded.

The Chancellor was asked how start up packages will be affected. He said that would be a problem in the future as it is harder to make up the differential.

Chair Sherman added that Academic Council is asking for nominations for the Oliver Johnson Award and to let him know if there are any suggestions.
SPECIAL ORDERS:

I. Consent Calendar: The Consent Calendar was adopted with unanimous consent.

II. Reports of Standing Committees:

A. Reports of the Standing Committees were placed on file.

REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ASSEMBLY: Professor B. M. Dodin said that the report of the Assembly was posted in its entirety on the Academic Senate webpage and could be viewed online.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND FACULTIES:

A. Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences Chair H. Henry presented and moved adoption of the proposed changes in the course requirements for the B. S. Degree in Biomedical Sciences for UCR/UCLA Program in Biomedical Sciences The Motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

B. Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences Chair H. Henry presented and moved adoption of the proposed changes to NR3.2.1. The Motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

C. Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction Chair C. J. Laursen presented and moved adoption of the petition to update the Systemwide Senate Bylaws to include the UC Riverside College of Engineering. The Motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS: Professor D. Ozer spoke on the issues of the Library. He noted that with new programs and new faculty, more resources are needed and that resource prices are going up. He asked that the Chancellor put the needs of the library at the front and center. Chancellor Orbach said that a search for a new librarian is in process and hopes that the faculty will assist in how the funds will be allocated and asked for faculty input and to help drive the direction of the library.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

L. Wright, Secretary-Parliamentarian
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

Marlene Odel
Recording Secretary