The Academic Senate met in Oakland on May 9, 2007 with Senate Chair John Oakley presiding.

President Dynes’ Report:

The futures report (alternative scenarios of funding and its upshot for funding) adopted by the Council in December and distributed to the Regents will be presented on May 17, 2005

Chancellor France Córdova is leaving UCR for Purdue.

The Dept. of Energy announced that Livermore will be partnered with UCs.

Student mental health services to be reappraised. Increased the budget about $5m to aid in the maintenance of mental health of our students.

Student Loan practices audit underway currently.

Planned Organizational review of the University. Opportunity to rethink our structure and lines of reporting/responsibility. President Dyne’s primary goal in this arena is to produce greater clarity on Presidential, Regential, and Campus authority. The second goal is to create greater operational efficiencies. The plan is to use consultants; will pay for it from an endowment which will be paid back from money saved after efficiencies implemented.

There was more discussion of Rory Hume’s academic planning processes that are moving forward at the system wide level, but specifics that have been proffered to the Assembly remain vague.

Faculty Salaries: according to Dynes a plan is now being finalized that will increase faculty salaries by about 26% over the next three or four years

Goals:
1. Get rid of (or at least greatly reduce the use of) offscale
2. Make salaries competitive.
3. address salary compression at the associate and early full professor ranks.

Dynes remarks: The Goal is to get 80% of the faculty back onto the scale. Compression most apparent in the middle ranks.

When questioned as to how this increase would be funded, Dynes replied
a. Through a compact with the governor.
b. Use Some of the student fee increases
c. Use the savings of up to 100m/year from increased efficiency.—This will go to salaries and grad. support.
Update on retirement contributions and the state budget:
Dynes: The goal is to get the state to fund our retirement fund at the same level as PERS. 11% by state (or Univ.) and 5% by individual.

Main Business of Assembly:

1. Ratifies the nomination of William Coles from UCSD as 07-08 University Committee on Committees vice-chair
2. By-law 16: Naming the Executive Director (staff position) of the Senate and outlining duties is accepted by unanimous consent.
3. By-law 185: Changing the Library Committee to the Library and Scholarly Communications Committee and establishing the appointment of up to 3 members at large is approved.
4. A Move to expand to 8 the number of committees to be represented on the Council (which would now include the Affirmative Action and Diversity committee) is approved. The membership of the Academic council increases from 19 to 20.
5. Resolution calling for the Rejection of the Senior Leadership Compensation Group (SLCG) Salary Structure that Differentiates Grades by Campus (Salary Slotting) is adopted with only 1 dissenting vote (Berkeley).
6. Resolution to reject Regental Proposal 89 restricting University Acceptance of Funding from the Tobacco Industry passed by an overwhelming majority. Although some saw the difficulties inherent with accepting research monies from the tobacco industry, most senators believed that the University has in place adequate policies regarding the integrity of individuals’ research and that safeguarding academic freedom was of primary importance in this matter.