MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION

MEETING: The Riverside Division of the Academic Senate met on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 2:10 p.m. in A265 Bourns. Chair A.W. Norman presided.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Regular meeting of November 17, 2008 were approved as distributed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHANCELLOR: Chancellor White announced that Ellen Wartella has resigned her position as Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost. The Chancellor acknowledged her accomplishments and commitment to student success. Dallas Rabenstein has accepted an invitation to begin in the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost position immediately. Professor Rabenstein has been on the Chemistry faculty for over 25 years, and has served as Interim Dean of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, was a Department Chair, and the Graduate Division Dean. The position is for 18 months through the end of June 2010. This is more of a term appointment and the Chancellor has taken the first steps in launching a national search engaging a search committee and executive search firm to help fill that position.

Chancellor White addressed the budget issues. The campus has engaged in a process to manage this year’s budget with an $8 million contraction which may grow to $13 million. The Chancellor received a letter from President Yudof addressed to the Regents that describes the best understanding of what is in front of us. The $8 million to $13 million may be a permanent cut for us. The Budget Advisory Committee is tasked to do the analytical work, come forth with a set of recommendations to the Chancellor and then it will be brought to an open commentary to the community. This group meets twice a month. Travel and purchasing has been curtailed, salaries and hiring have been frozen. The charge to the Budget Advisory Committee is one to create scenarios. They are looking at 6.5%, 10% and 15% cuts and it must be differentiated and based on strategic intent. Growth of general funds has grown disproportionately to academic growth. The Chancellor’s Office will vet the committee’s outcome towards the spring in order to have broad discussions.

The campus is buttoning down most capital projects on this campus which have state bond money as a portion of the totality of their funding. An example is the Material Science and Engineering Building. There are million dollar costs associated with buttoning down projects as well as opening them back up. There are penalties involved as well. The costs of shutting down a project will total $10 million. There are projects in the Commons and the Child Development Center that have no bonding money associated with them. The Geology Phase II, the Culver Center downtown, Psychology Student Services, and the Genomics Building are also projects which have state bond money associated with them. It does not look like there will be any money in the state budget for the School of Medicine. UCR has received a $10 million gift for the Medical School which cannot be used until the state puts in $10 million. The budget goes to the May revise, which will probably not happen until June. The Chancellor is working hard on federal dollars and private dollars and other strategies that are financially appropriate to continue the progress on the School of Medicine. The School of Public Policy has been approved by the Regents but the Chancellor is asking to take pause on. Originally the plan was to use 30 current faculty along with a dozen new faculty to form the new school along with hiring a new Dean. Now the question is should we do this on a smaller scale, with no outside hires, just use existing faculty who have expressed an interest or should it be put on hold until we have a different future? The Chancellor does not want to make that decision unilaterally and has asked Professor A. Deolalikar to put together a group of deans who are associated with the school, Chairs of Committee on Educational Policy, Planning and Budget, and the Grad Council to conduct a review and make a recommendation to us. The Chancellor would like members of the Academic Senate and academic deans of the colleges involved as well.
Chancellor White turned the floor over to Vice Chancellor G. Bolar to summarize the operating side of the budget issues. In the 1990’s we went through a 25% budget cut, five years ago there was a 10% budget cut, and in our economic times, Vice Chancellor Bolar is hoping that it won’t go above 10%. She stated it may be 2011-2012 until we come out of this. After the reduction in the 1990s there was no plan. When the University of California and the State decide to cut the base budget, the base budget general fund consists of everything, all the faculty salaries, all the faculty merits, all staff salaries, and benefits, anything that is funded by the state. They will give us a number and want us to cut our budget by that amount. This is the base budget. This is a one time year at $8 million, and may go to $13 million. We ultimately need to find a permanent solution. In the Governor’s January budget for 2009-2010 is a $65 million permanent cut for UC. The new bills added another $50 million for a total of $115 million. This brings UCR closer to taking a 10% cut. The retirement situation is even more devastating. They pulled their funding from our retirement. There was $20 million that was going to come to UCR to begin funding the employer side of the contribution in spring 2010. If we do not start contributing by 2012, our retirement program will be 60% funded. There is a task force going in the Office of the President to look at a new style of retirement program for people who are not yet employed by the University of California.

The Chancellor accepted the Budget Advisory Committee’s recommendation that add the 6.5% to the scenario planning. Those plans are coming in next Monday and they will form the basis on which the committee comes to understand what the impact of the different budget scenarios are on the different units. There will probably not be another early retirement program.

The floor was then opened to questions. Discussion included: the possibility of Federal stimulus funds coming to UCR; clarification of the budget planning process (especially scenarios developed at the unit- and department-level); and more detailed explanations of the funding mechanisms from the state to the UC to UC Riverside.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR AND PROVOST: There were no announcements by the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR: Chair A. Norman announced that the Regents’ meeting will be held at UCR on Wednesday and Thursday, March 18th and 19th. President Yudof will be on campus on Monday, March 16th and will be meeting with the Academic Senate Executive Council. Tuesday, March 17th will be Chancellor White’s inauguration.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

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

REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ASSEMBLY: Professor M. Molle presented the report of the December 10, 2008 meeting of the Assembly of the Academic Senate, which can be found on page 35 of the full agenda.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND FACULTIES:

A. Professor P. Gorecki, Chair of Rules and Jurisdiction, presented and moved adoption of the proposed change in the Committee on Diversity and Equal Opportunity Bylaw 8.6 which can be found on page 37 of the full agenda. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

B. Professor P. Gorecki, Chair of Rules and Jurisdiction, presented and moved adoption of the proposed change in the Committee on Planning and Budget Bylaw 8.18.1 which can be found on page 39 of the full agenda. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.
C. Professor P. Gorecki, Chair of Rules and Jurisdiction, presented and moved adoption of the proposed change in the Graduate Council Bylaw 8.14.1 which can be found on page 41 of the full agenda. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

D. Professor P. Gorecki, Chair of Rules and Jurisdiction, presented and moved adoption of the proposed change to Riverside Division Regulations R2.1.2, R2.1.3, R2.1.4 (Requirements in American History and Institutions), which can be found on page 42 of the full agenda. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

E. Professor A. Norman, Chair of the Executive Council, presented and moved adoption of the Naming Opportunity from the Senate for the Highlander Union Building for the Commons Expansion Building Project and the Highlander Plaza for the Commons which can be found on page 43 of the full agenda. The motion was unanimously adopted.

F. Professor G. Haggerty, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education Reform, presented and moved adoption of the proposed Pilot Program for General Education Reform which can be found on page 48 of the full agenda. Professor V. Nyitray from Religious Studies offered an amendment: In passing this motion and establishing this pilot program, that the Senate be charged with constituting a committee not to oversee the pilot program but to continue the research done by this committee and to generate a comprehensive vision for general education at the University of California. Professor Nyitray also noted that the pilots that are listed should be made explicit as to whether or not students who enter with them are also required to fulfill the campus ethnic studies requirement.

Professor Haggerty accepted the amendment which was: That the Academic Senate is charged with constituting a committee to produce a comprehensive vision for general education and suggest that they conclude their work concurrent with the conclusion of the pilot program and at that time the campus as a whole can discuss and evaluate a future direction for general education on the campus as a whole and this would be distinct from the committee to oversee the pilot program. Amendment carried. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

A.S. Jacobs, Secretary-Parliamentarian
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

Sue Stracener
Recording Secretary