MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION

MEETING: The Riverside Division of the Academic Senate met on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 2:10 p.m. in 302 HUB. Chair A.W. Norman presided.

Before the formal business began, Chair Norman introduced Professor Henry “Harry” Powell, Academic Senate Chair and Professor of Pathology at the UC San Diego School of Medicine and Daniel L. Simmons, Vice Chair of the Academic Senate and Professor of Law at UC Davis School of Law, as our honored guests.

Professor Powell addressed the faculty on the consequences and challenges of the UC fiscal crisis for the Academic Senate and shared governance:

During the past year, the President of the University talked to the Senate about the possibility of some kind of self study or self examination by the Senate. The President was eager to learn from the faculty what the University could do to address the present crisis. As those discussions continued, it was decided a commission of faculty alone could hardly come to grips with the problems we face. So the UC Commission on the Future of the University took on its present form. The calendar in front of this Commission is a challenge. There is a calendar that runs in Sacramento that represents an acute fiscal challenge. The Academic calendar and its imperatives have to work with another calendar. Chair Powell and Vice Chair Simmons both feel strongly that this commission will dominate the current academic Council’s year of work. The Senate cannot stand back and wait for the commission to finish its work, the Senate needs to interact with the working groups as they are doing their work. The discussions in the monthly meetings of the Academic Council and in other forums in which we discuss the Senate’s business are focused around making sure that the working groups and the standing committees of the Senate are communicating with each other so that the standing committees of the Senate know what is taking place within the working groups and will be ready to comment on it, when at the end of the Commission’s work, their report is transmitted to the Senate and then they have a traditional 60 day review. The documents go out to each divisional senate and are shared with the chairs and members of the standing committees. Those reviews then come to the Academic Council for system wide review. Professor Powell hopes to have a well informed Senate deliver a fully informed opinion.

This year UC takes its turn to Chair the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates. This is a body that brings together the Senates of the community colleges, the California State Universities and the University of California. This is a time when the three segments of public higher education have come together with one voice and make that voice heard in the Legislature.

The business of advocacy means that we have to explain ourselves. Now we have a chance to explain ourselves to a much wider audience, a state wide audience and maybe a nation wide audience. While we are having this commission examining the future of the university, faculty should feel free to communicate with members of the commission, you should feel free to address concerns to the working groups. This body should be dynamic as possible.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Annual and Regular meeting of May 19, 2009 were approved as corrected. Item G was moved from Reports of Standing Committees and Faculties to its proper place on the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHANCELLOR: Chancellor White told the Faculty that he and the Senate share the goal of assuring the excellence of the University of California. The Chancellor addressed five myths he reports hearing about the university’s budget situation:
Myth #1: UC has more than $5 billion in unrestricted net assets that could be used to avoid budget cuts.
Fact: This money is committed to academic programs, research initiatives, capital projects, scholarships and other purposes. The word “unrestricted” is used in an accounting sense in that this money is not restricted by, for example, federal grant terms. The amount in this category has been declining rapidly and will be less than $1 billion next year.

Myth #2: The UC medical centers have money in reserve we could use.
Fact: The five hospitals have $400 million in reserve, far less than the $3 billion recommended to deal with hold-ups with federal and other payments to handle 190 days of cash flow.

Myth #3: UC is using student fees to pay for buildings.
Fact: Not a penny of the student educational fee goes to construction or debt service. Since education fees are considered part of general revenue, they do help the university get low interest rates for its construction bonds.

Myth #4: UC is in decline.
Fact: Excellent people are still choosing to come here. While we are doing less, what we do we must do with excellence.

Myth #5: There are no faculty merit raises or grants of tenure.
Fact: We are spending $1.5 million in faculty merits this year and intend to keep granting the raises that go with merits and promotions, even though the state is not giving us the money for it. No assistant professor will be refused tenure for budget reasons. They must simply perform to our standards.

Chancellor White noted that health costs have gone up 11 percent, yet UCR employees will see no increase in 2010. Similarly, in April the university will start contributing 4 percent of each employee’s salary to their retirement, but employees will pay no more than the 2 percent they pay now into the defined contribution fund.

Chancellor White passed out stamped, hand-addressed envelopes donated by the Citizens University Committee and urged faculty members to briefly write the governor on personal stationery explaining in their own words their dismay at the state’s disinvestment in the university.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR AND PROVOST: Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Dallas Rabenstein presented a budget update. The Governor’s January 10, 2009 Budget was $3.25 B. The budget reductions between January and June totaled $637.1M in cuts which brought the budget to $2.61B. The total reduction to the UC system was $1,005.1M. The UCR budget reduction was $51.5M There were estimated unfunded mandatory costs of $15 +M, totaling an estimated $66.5M. The permanent reductions totaled $17M, and a one-time reductions/funding of $34.5M.

How will the budget reductions be dealt with next year? There will an increase in revenue as the fees will be going up. There will not be the furlough money. It will be up to UCR to figure out how to come up with $13M. The power point presentation made at the May town hall meeting can be found on the Chancellor’s web site.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-PARLIAMENTARIAN: Professor D. Ozer, Secretary-Parliamentarian, announced that the election report was found on page 5 of the full agenda.
For the office of Vice Chair of the Division, a single nomination was received for Professor K. Montgomery to serve a one year term beginning September 1, 2009. The Secretary Parliamentarian was instructed to cast a single ballot for the nominee.

Professor J. Farrell was elected to serve as Chair of the Faculty of the Bourns College of Engineering. Professors A. Mulchandani and A. Wang were elected to serve on the Executive Committee. Professor S. Tan was elected to serve on the Committee on Committees.

Professor D. Herzberger was elected to serve as Chair of the Faculty of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. Professors A. Cabezas, M. Lam, and P. Morton were elected to serve on the Executive Committee. Professors T. Patterson, M. Jayme and J-T Guo were elected to serve on the Committee on Committees.

Professors S. Currie, C. Larive, D. Parker, I. Kaloshian and J. Li were elected to serve on the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences Executive Committee. Professor Z. Yang was elected to serve on the Committee on Committees.

Professor E. Rolland was elected to serve as Chair of the Faculty of the School of Business Administration.

SPECIAL ORDERS:

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

REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ASSEMBLY: Professor A. Wang was not able to attend the meeting. The report from the October 14, 2009 Assembly Meeting can be found on page 110 of the full agenda.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND FACULTIES

A. Professor D. Ozer, Secretary Parliamentarian and member of the Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction, presented and moved adoption of the proposed change in the Committee on International Education Bylaw 8.15.1 which can be found on page 113 of the full agenda. The motion was seconded and adopted, with two abstentions.

B. Professor A. Norman, Chair of the Executive Council, presented and moved adoption of the request to change the title of the Liberal Studies & Interdisciplinary Programs Office to the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs which can be found on page 114 of the full agenda. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

C. Professor A. Norman, Chair of the Executive Council, presented and moved adoption of the Naming Opportunity for the Tokuji and Bettie L. Furuta Research Laboratory located on the 3rd floor in the new Genomics building which can be found on page 116 of the full agenda. The motion was seconded and adopted with three abstentions.

D. Professor A. Norman, Chair of the Executive Council, presented and moved adoption of the UCR Academic Senate Mission Statement which can be found on page 132 of the full agenda. The motion was adopted with three abstentions.
New Business

M. Yates, Chair of the CNAS Executive Committee, gave notice that at the next meeting of the Academic Senate she would make a motion to rescind the adoption of the General Education Concentrations that were adopted at the May 19, 2009 meeting.

Associate Professor Karthick Ramakrishnan presented two of five resolutions.

#001 Resolution on shared commitments to the Master Plan for Higher Education
WHEREAS the Master Plan for Higher Education in California—a document that for five decades has helped produce a top-ranked university system that serves the people of California with excellence and access—is under grave threat by recent policies;
THEREFORE be it resolved that we call on the state government and the Regents of the University of California to reverse these policies and reaffirm their shared commitment to carrying out the Master Plan.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the resolution as amended. The vote was 52 in favor, 4 opposed and 5 abstentions. Motion passed.

#002 Resolution on campus equity and shared governance
WHEREAS the decades-long practice of meaningful shared governance has been undermined by the declaration of “emergency powers” by the UC Office of the President and the creation of an ad-hoc UC Commission on the Future;
THEREFORE be it resolved that we call on University President Mark Yudof and the Regents of the University of California to demonstrate a continuing respect for shared governance by reconstituting the Commission on the Future and making it reflective of the University as a whole, with equitable representation across campuses, disciplines, and segments; and
urge that the reconstituted Commission honor shared governance through open forums, continuing input from affected parties, and with a 12-month timeline for consideration of policy alternatives and evolving budget realities.

A motion was moved and seconded to refer Resolution #002 to a mail ballot as amended. The vote was 21 in favor, 34 opposed and 7 abstained. The measure will go to an email ballot.

#003 Resolution on meaningful fiscal transparency
WHEREAS the fiscal “emergency” in the UC system that prompted drastic measures of retrenchment, downsizing, and student fee hikes has been presented in only the most general terms; and
WHEREAS many lawmakers, journalists, students, parents, and the general public in California remain skeptical of the budget figures so far presented by the UC system; and
WHEREAS many in the state are unaware of the state government's unfulfilled obligations over several years to defray the costs of higher education for the state's top students; and
WHEREAS rapid hikes in student fees place an undue burden on middle-class and low-income students and their families and jeopardize timely completion of degrees; and
WHEREAS the quality of education at the University of California is severely threatened, as evidenced by recent massive layoffs of Instructors and Teaching Assistants even as student fees are raised;

THEREFORE be it resolved that we:

call on the UC Office of the President and the UCR Administration to provide full, detailed, and meaningful fiscal transparency, including budget reports since 2000-2001 that can be scaled up or down in their level of detail, with meaningful descriptions of categories at each level of analysis, and justifications on restricted uses of revenues where relevant; and

urge that cuts in instructional staff positions be halted until the consequences of such layoffs—on teaching loads and educational outcomes—can be fully examined and weighed in a forum open to all relevant segments of the UC community; and

call on the Regents to desist from enacting these student fee hikes until further cuts in administrative costs, other cost deferrals, and new sources of revenue such as temporary borrowing are seriously considered and presented to the public.

#004 RESOLUTIONS ON ENSURING SOLVENCY IN RETIREMENT BENEFITS

WHEREAS the future of the UC Retirement Plan and other retirement benefits remain vulnerable to the recent economic crisis;

THEREFORE be it resolved that we urge the University to provide meaningful guidance and long-term planning to ensure continued viability and equity in the provision of retirement benefits.

#005 RESOLUTION ON THE Strategic Planning Process at UC Riverside

WHEREAS the UCR Strategic Planning process will be crucial for the long-term future of our campus, which historically has been a premier campus for research strength in a range of disciplines and issues of access and diversity in its undergraduate and graduate student bodies; and

WHEREAS the recommendations from the UCR Strategic Planning committees will be made public in January 2010, and may lack the detail of campus-wide reports, statistics, and other information that inform such recommendations;

THEREFORE be it resolved that we:

call on the Executive Vice Chancellor, the UCR2020 Steering Committee, and all other relevant committees place particular weight on issues of access and diversity, unintended consequences of the pursuit of AAU status, and equitable distribution of resources to all units of the campus; and

call on the Executive Vice Chancellor to make available all reports that inform the recommendations of the UCR Strategic Plan. Wherever possible and relevant, information should be provided in disaggregated form, by unit and department, on various bases such as per faculty member, per teaching assistant, per undergraduate major, and per undergraduate student taught.

It was moved and seconded that the remaining resolutions #003, #004 and #005, that were presented to members, be referred to an email ballot. The vote was 38 in favor, 5 opposed. Motion passed.
Additional Business:

Professor H. Green presented the following resolution:

**Resolution #006  Faculty FTE**
WHEREAS the UCR campus as approximately 30% of its Faculty FTE unfilled, with the funds used elsewhere; and
WHEREAS some campus administrators have stated publicly that the Chancellor’s goal of AAU status cannot be achieved with our current faculty (because the current faculty cannot hope to gain sufficient extramural funding or hope to support and supervise sufficient numbers of graduate students)
    THEREFORE be it resolved that:
    The UCR Division of the Academic Senate calls on the administration to make reduction of the fraction of unfilled faculty FTE to less than 11% be the highest priority of our Strategic Planning process.

A motion was moved and seconded to refer Resolution #006 to an email ballot. The vote was 20 in favor, 6 opposed and 7 abstained. Motion passed.

There is a senate web site for members to comment on the remaining resolutions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

ATTEST:

D. Ozer, Secretary-Parliamentarian
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

Sue Stracener
Recording Secretary