From Assembly Chair, Henry Powell,

Total remuneration study shows non-competitive for all employees including faculty.

Post-Employment Benefits (PEB) Task Force proposed contribution rates to pension fund, 3.5% for employees and 7% for employer in July 2011, and 5% and 10% in July 2012. The president will make his recommendations to the Regents who will vote in December.

Commission on the Future: Senate representatives conveyed Senate positions. Additional Commission meetings are expected in the fall. Commission made decisions: 1) to continue to explore the creation of online courses through a pilot program, which was approved by the Academic Council, contingent on obtaining external funding; 2) to develop strategies and mechanisms for increasing revenue from indirect cost recovery; 3) to ask the Senate to develop a plan for easing the transfer process; and 4) to rename “fees” as “tuition.”

Transfer is considered by the legislature to be difficult and the major prerequisites are different on all campuses. However, the real problem is capacity—UC already enrolls more transfer students than called for by the Master Plan.

From President Mark Yudof,

- The Governor introduced a favorable May revise, restoring $305 million cut from last year’s budget, along with $51 million for enrollment funding and full funding for Cal Grants.
- Both the Assembly and the Senate said they too wanted to make higher education a priority. Though they differed on the details, this is a big shift for us – the state is starting to get its priorities in order.
- For the past year or so, we’ve been in crisis mode: compelled to take a series of desperate and temporary measures to dig our way out of a billion dollar hole.
- We’re now at the point where we can—and must—look over the horizon and come up with some long term, sustainable ways of operating.
(About Efficiency) We’ve already done much: restructuring UC’s debt, improving strategic sourcing and e-procurement, seeking energy efficiencies, reorganizing the Office of the President.

That’s only the beginning. Over the next five years, I believe we can redirect hundreds of millions of dollars annually from administrative costs to the core academic and research missions of the university.

These efficiencies we’ll be talking about and chasing are not about shrinking the University. They are about preparing it to maintain its brilliance – much as a farmer pruning his trees or vines, to prepare them for robust and fruitful growth in the next season.

We’re a special type of organization, trying to nurture creative thinkers, to educate students, to turn out the professionals, teachers and other leaders of our society. We are a relatively flat organization with shared governance. Our campuses have a great deal of autonomy. We have immensely complex social and legal responsibilities. In an era of scarcity, our goal must be to preserve the quality of the institution.

(About Commission on the Future) I forwarded the Academic Council’s recommendations and your letter directly to the Commission.

Commission examined your recommendations, including one to downsize the university. Others included enhancing the transfer, improving time to degree, establishing a multi-year fee schedule for students and continuing to explore online instruction.

Others:
- Assembly unanimously approved the election of the UCOC 2010-2011 Vice Chair.
- Assembly unanimously approved the appointment of the Senate parliamentarian.
- Assembly unanimously approved the recipient of the 2010 Oliver Johnson Award.
- UCLA’s Statement of Academic Senate Values and Recommendations were discussed. UCLS Chair asked the Assembly to endorse the UCLA Statement for submission to the president. Assembly voted to send both the UCLA statement and the Academic Council’s recommendation to the Commission on the Future to the divisions and committees for systemwide review and comment.

Submitted by Professor Albert Wang.