April 27, 2015

To: Jose Wudka, Chair of the Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

From: Ilhem Messaoudi Powers

RE: Report of the meeting of the UC Academic Senate Assembly, February 11, 2015 and April 15, 2015

Summary of the February 11th meeting:
The chair provided an update on the November Regents meeting during which Governor Brown appointed Gareth Elliott to the UC board of Regents. Mr. Elliott used to serve in the legislative affairs secretary office in Governor Brown’s administration and was working in a lobbying firm in Sacramento before being appointed. This last appointment comes on the heels of the appointment of several ex officio members of the Regents who are mostly politicians. This new composition has significantly changed the dynamics of the Regents meetings. New member of the regents. Other topics of discussion included salaries of UCOP employees and coaches incentive for academic achievement.

The Regents meeting also included a discussion regarding the “commission on the future”, which was proposed by the Governor proposed to discuss 3 year degree and other education matters. This committee was initially going to have several individuals, but President Napolitano negotiated to make this a committee of 2 that is composed of herself and the Governor. The Regents approved this committee of 2. This poses a challenge as matters pertaining to education were delegated by the regents to the faculty and normally fall under the senate.

The Governor appointed Lark Park to oversee higher education on his staff. She was on the human health and services and for the last 4 years and served a similar role in the 10 years prior to this. Ms. Park reached out to the Senate to discuss faculty evaluation (the balance between education, research and service) has taken place with the senate.

Governor’s has proposed a 4% increase for the UC budget, which translates into a 1.7% increase in UC core budget. He also tied the 4% increase to no increase in tuition and no increase in the number of out of state students. The regents initially voted on a 20% tuition increase, but the Governor who vetoed several proposals to increase UC budget blocked their efforts. This is very concerning and hopefully the committee of 2 can resolved these budget issues. Other budgetary concerns include the severe cuts to the UC program that supports UC faculty and graduate students to engage with our national laboratories. The graduate fellowship program approved by the Regents was also suspended. This puts the research mission of the post-graduate education at the UC National laboratories in jeopardy.

The chair also discussed the current proposal to select 15 community colleges to each have a baccalaureate program that does not overlap with any major that is currently offered by a UC or CSU campus. There is however no designated body to identify and deal with overlap. The community colleges have prepared a proposal and they are soliciting letter of support from the UC, which the senate will probably have to graciously decline.

BOARS endorsed a proposal to streamline transfers to UC. UCOP is trying to identify appropriate people on each campus for each major and working to identify ways to make pre-requisites more uniform across campuses. This is confusing for students trying to improve their
chances of getting into a UC by applying to multiple campuses. Chair was looking for help identifying the appropriate people who can help with this process.

Proposed amendment to Senate Bylaw 155, Academic Computing and Communications passed. Amendment to Senate Bylaw 50A passed.

Confidential Advocacies offices are now opening on all campuses to comply with VAWA. The expectations for faculty are currently unclear. VAWA training is available and there is a discussion of possibly folding it into the sexual harassment training. However, VAWA training has to be ongoing so more discussion is needed.

Report of the meeting of the UC Academic Senate Assembly, April 15, 2015

During the April 15th meeting:
The chair provided an update on the recent efforts to streamline UC transfer policies in order to provide some uniformity in the process by which students transfer from community colleges to the UC while still maintaining the high quality of the students. Efforts are currently focused on obtaining consensus on the pre-requisites for degrees in various fields of study. The goal is to "streamline" 10 majors and meeting with the Life Sciences representative had taken place with meetings with Natural and Social Sciences planned in the near future. The chair also provided an update on the progress made by the “committee of two” formed by Governor Brown and President Napolitano. The goal of this committee is to find solutions to address the funding shortfall to the UC while avoiding tuition increases. The Governor has been visiting the UC campuses to meet with leadership teams to learn more about the difference between the CSU and UC systems.

The provost gave additional updates regarding the ongoing debate over the UC budget. President Napolitano has began the 2015-2016 campus budget debates and the emphasis has been on making strategic choices in faculty hiring, developing long term plans and more importantly metric to measure progress of these strategic plans. There also seem to be a lot of discussions regarding medical centers and how they fit into the campus they are affiliated with. The provost also discussed the launch of a database that contains all activities pertaining to the UC-Mexico initiative that can be found at www.maxim.ucsd.edu/ucmexico/. Finally, the latest draft of VAWA is out for review and faculty are encouraged to provide feedback.

James Chalfant was unanimously voted to become the next vice chair.

The UCFW committee provided a report on the self funded PPO UC-CARE. This was deployed 16 months ago to save healthcare costs while increasing efficiency. The process had a rocky start but seems to be improving. There are no immediate plans to remove Kaiser plans, but there are plans to consider a UC CARE HMO that may be rolled out in 2017. Discussions about the selection of the 3rd party administrator as well as other aspects of the plan (premium, co-pay, deductible, access, coverage, etc…) are still being discussed.