MEETING:
The Riverside Division of the Academic Senate met on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Genomics Auditorium Room 1102A. Chair J. Wudka presided. The meeting was attended by 70 members of the Riverside Division of the Academic Senate.

MINUTES:
The Minutes of the Regular and Annual Meeting of May 19, 2015 were approved as presented.

PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING:
Chair Wudka reviewed the Statement of Purpose, included in the meeting Agenda.

This special meeting is being called to discuss the Administration’s proposed relocation of the Senate offices from its current location at the University Office Building to Hinderaker Hall. The goals of the special meeting are to provide a forum for the discussion of the possible relocation of the Senate offices to Hinderaker Hall, including entertaining motions on this issue and to review and discuss the Senate’s draft Memorandum of Understanding, and the Provost & Executive Vice-Chancellor’s Memorandum related to this issue.

Chair Wudka then presented a slide show to present the background materials regarding how the proposed move to Hinderaker Hall was initiated. The Senate was approached in early summer by the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor to consider the possibility of relocating to Hinderaker Hall. Executive Council was consulted and the committee had mixed opinions. Other UC campuses where the Senate is in close proximity to the Administration were consulted. Based on initial feedback, Chair Wudka decided to support the move as long as some practical aspects were addressed. Chair Wudka noted that the office space would be comparable to the current office space. A Memorandum of Understanding was drafted by Chair Wudka and sent to the Administration. The Provost then responded with a Memorandum allocating the Senate’s space at Hinderaker Hall. During this exchange with the Administration, Chair Wudka received many emails of concern from faculty.

Some faculty expressed disadvantages of the move: loss of independence; loss of the Senate offices as a secure space for faculty; disruption to Senate staff; pressure on Senate staff and less office space. Other faculty expressed advantages: earlier awareness of administrative actions; increased consultation; increased visibility and closer participation in the development of the campus. An email was received by Chair Wudka asking to hold a special meeting to discuss this issue with the Senate faculty. At that point, Chair Wudka stopped all discussions related to the matter until the Special Division Meeting date. The Special Division meeting date was set and communication with Administration ceased.
Chancellor Wilcox was unable to attend today’s Special Division Meeting. Chair Wudka shared a brief video that Chancellor Wilcox provided to address the Division to apologize for not being able to attend due to prior commitments.

Chair Wudka informed the Division that the Senate Memorandum of Understanding and memo from the Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor could be found on page 7 of the agenda.

The floor was then opened up for discussion.

Members of the Division shared their viewpoints regarding why they oppose the Senate offices moving to Hinderaker Hall. Their comments were as follows: The close proximity of the Senate offices to the University’s Administration has the potential to damage the autonomy of the Senate; the principal of shared governance requires the Senate to operate independently of the Administration; the relationship between the Senate and the Administration is not a space issue and relocating the Senate offices is a poor use of scarce resources; day to day control over the spaces allocated to the Senate will be complicated and has the potential to affect Senate operations and may lead to a negative perception of the Senate’s independence from the Administration; does not serve the best interests or needs of UCR faculty; communication and consultation with the Senate can happen across the campus and putting the Senate and Administration in the same space will not improve communication and consultation; the faculty need space to express their inquiries, comments and concerns; pressure on Senate staff is a concern; in past history there was pressure and influence on the Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP) from Administration and there are concerns of CAP meeting six hours a week in the basement; there is good reason to let the Senate and the Administration who both have recognized authority do their business and then come together as needed to accomplish the end; the place of the power should be with the faculty and faculty need the Administration, they are important to the faculty; the Senate’s presence in Hinderaker would have the tendency to confuse new people on campus as to exactly what the Academic Senate is, from where its power comes and how it interacts with the Administration.

Members of the Division shared their viewpoints regarding why they approve of the Senate offices moving to Hinderaker Hall. Their comments were as follows: Like the idea of faculty advocates being in close proximity of campus administrators; it will reduce the barriers with consultation and discussion between the Senate and Administration and will improve the lines of communication; shared governance has to involve a proximity where dialogue and conversation occur; we need to work together and dissolve the “us versus them”; working in the same space will increase collaboration; Hinderaker is the location of power on this campus and is fitting of the Senate to be in that building and the Senate deserves to be there; a former member from CAP noted that the meetings CAP has with Administration are scheduled and they never felt pressured or influenced by Administration; the Senate should be a powerhouse and should be reflected as a power place and to be housed in Hinderaker gives that seal.

A motion was moved to reject the proposal to move to Hinderaker Hall. Following comments raised in the assembly’s discussions, a motion was moved and seconded to amend the original motion to, “Senate retains its current quarters in their entirety”.
A motion was moved to adopt the resolution in its amended state. The motion was seconded and passed overwhelmingly.

A motion to accept the resolution as stated was moved and seconded.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

ATTEST:
S. See, Secretary-Parliamentarian
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

Leondra Jacobs
Recording Secretary