November 2, 2015

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

From: Mary Gauvain, UCR Assembly Representative to the UC Academic Senate

RE: Report of the Teleconference Meeting of the UC Academic Senate Assembly, June 10, 2015

The meeting was convened by Mary Gilly, Chair of the Academic Senate, who made the following announcements:

1. The apportionment of the campus representatives to the Assembly is complete, the number of representatives per campus did not change, UCR has two representatives to the Assembly.

2. The Transfer Initiative is getting much attention and it will be a key issue in the forthcoming budget negotiations. There are efforts underway to streamline transfer from the community colleges to the UC for 11 majors (Business Administration, Electrical Engineering, History, Political Science, English, Literature, Mechanical Engineering, Psychology, Computer Science, Film, Philosophy). The goal is to have 20 majors completed this coming academic year.

3. The Regents meeting in May focused largely on budget issues, though there was also discussion of (a) revising campus policies on sexual violence and assault in order to match federal mandates and (b) food security for students on the campuses.

4. Post-employment benefits are still under discussion and no concrete proposals have been formed. One option is to explore a hybrid defined benefits and defined contribution plan.

**President’s Announcements**

1. Budget. The budget is close to being finalized and offers a good platform for the next four years. The Governor will increase his portion of the base budget 4% each year of his remaining term (4 years). In-state tuition will remain flat for two years and afterward it will rise at a rate keyed to inflation. The budget does not include funds for unfunded students enrolled across the campuses, a topic which continues to be discussed. No mandates on online instruction are included in the budget, indicating that the Governor is letting UC decide on this issue on its own. There are also no mandates on faculty workload and time restrictions on research. Discussion about the number of students (both in- and out-of-state) are ongoing with the legislature.

2. Pension. A systemwide task force will be formed for examining pension reform and the Senate Chair and Vice Chair are expected to play key roles in this task force given their expertise on the topic.

3. Transfer pathways. The President will soon announce new transfer pathways on the UC website and in the press.

4. Initiatives. There are several UC President Initiatives currently underway including: President’s Research Catalyst Awards, which focuses on cross-campus collaboration in strategic areas; Food Initiative; Carbon Neutrality Initiative; President’s
Postdoctoral Fellowship Program; UC-Mexico Initiative; Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative.

Provost Announcements
1. Commitments to the budget framework that are largely under the purview of the Senate and pertain to the academic mission are important to keep, including the transfer pathways, increased graduate rates, decreased time to degree, and reducing performance gaps related to gender, ethnicity, and SES in certain majors.
2. There is a need for increased use of data gathering to guide decisions and actions related to academic program changes. There are important roles for the Senate and faculty at large in these efforts, including: transfer expectations, asking campuses to examine major requirements, use of advance placement scores in granting credit in majors, use of a common identification system of courses across the community colleges, CSU system, and UC, more technology based courses for undergraduates, and continued development of online courses and certificate courses. Faculty involvement in these matters is critical.
3. Activity-based costing will be piloted at UCR to determine costs associated with instruction as a way of making academic choices in the future.

Business Items
1. Robert Clare (UCR) was elected to serve as the 2015-2016 Vice Chair of the UC Committee on Committees
2. Amendment and By-Law 128D2 was approved. The proposed revision to bylaw 128D.2 regularizes the standing committee Vice Chairs such that non-Council committees will now have Vice Chairs that serve at large in the same manner as the Council represented committees. This revision will directly affect six committees: UCAF, UCIE, UCOLASC, UCOPE, UCP&T, and UCACC.