January 4, 2016

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, December 9, 2015

Chair’s Announcements
The meeting was convened by Dan Hare, Chair of the Academic Senate, who made the following announcements:

1. Work is continuing on the transfer streamlining process; a number of majors have been completed and several more are in process.

2. The development of a new pension plan is also ongoing. The Retirement Options Task Force work is nearly finished, although there have been some contentious items. The Task Force is trying to discern the relative importance of three goals: benefits, pay-outs, and savings. The committee is evaluating several different options and costs and their impact on UCRP. The President will receive the report next week and review it over the next month, and then meet with Dan Hare and Jim Chalfant, Vice Chair of the Senate, in January 2016. The plan is to release the report on January 15 for Senate review, with campus reviews due by February 15. Concern was raised by Shane White (UCLA) about the brevity of the review process, especially for understanding the competitiveness and sustainability of the proposal.

3. Dan Hare has been appointed to a working group commissioned by the Regents to look into issues of free speech and academic freedom. The goal is to draft a statement by the end of January 2016 that will then be sent to the campuses for review.

4. Dan Hare is on the Task Force on Sexual Violence, Assault and Harassment, convened in response to the UCB case and primarily concerned with how such cases are handled. Dan has forwarded information to the President about current policies, which has increased her confidence in the integrity of existing policies. There is also a data gathering process underway about on-campus Title 9 practices. There will be meetings of the Task Force in January and February of 2016, and faculty delegates to the Task Force are currently being sought. The aim is to clarify policies and determine if there are any differences in how they are implemented on the campuses. The report will be reviewed by the Senate in February 2016.

President’s Announcements

1. At the Paris Global Climate Conference, the President announced UCs participation in the Breakthrough Energy Coalition designed to fund investment in new technology and research on clean energy, especially reducing carbon and other dangerous gases into the atmosphere. UC is the only public institution involved in the coalition and it will be involved on both the investment and research sides.

2. The four winners of the Presidential Catalyst Awards have been announced. There were many excellent applications. The topics of the awarded proposals were: Biodiversity, Drought and Carbon Management, Archeology and At-Risk Global
Heritage Sites, and Dark Matter. Awardees include representatives from 9 campuses, Lawrence Berkeley Labs, and ANR.

3. The number of UC undergraduate applications for Fall 2016 has increased for California residents, non-residents, and international students. The number of transfer applications has also increased (the deadline was extended to January 4). The goal is to have a 2:1 ratio of California resident students to transfer students.

4. Upcoming items:
   a. Results from the Task Force on Sexual Harassment are due soon, with a goal to get closure on this topic in terms of policy early in 2016.
   b. Report on Retirement Options is due soon; the Senate is heavily involved in this effort. The report is expected at the March Regents meeting.
   c. A Health Services Committee will be formed to work on issues pertaining to health services for UC employees.

5. Budget. OP is getting ready for the next budget cycle. There is an expected 4% increase per the Governor’s agreement, as well as $25 million in new funding for enrollment growth to support the campuses for the 5000 student increase planned for Fall of 2016. There are plans to seek increased funds in the new budget for graduate student support.

6. The President commented on the national discussion about campus climate, diversity and inclusion. She made a personal appeal for UC to achieve greater levels of diversity among faculty and graduate students. She underscored the importance of engaging students in these efforts and the importance of listening to the students.

**Provost Announcements**

1. Some budget negotiation and agreement items are directly connected to faculty activity and campus administration regarding the academic mission (e.g., student success, especially for California residents). Requests such as those regarding streamlining requirements for the majors are important for faculty and departments to address to meet these budget negotiation goals.

2. Diversity of students and faculty is a critical issue and the Regents want to see changes on this front, including reporting mechanisms that reflect changes from year to year, such as the proportion of women and underrepresented minorities hired each year and what kinds of changes are needed to reach the proportions in these areas that we aim for. The January presentation to the Regents will focus on diversity, which is included in the accountability report. Also it is important to continue discussion and work on related issues such as the pipeline, how to define an eligibility pool, graduation rates of students in different social groups, and the advancement of diverse and women faculty.

3. The Provost is working with the President on reconceptualizing graduate training to include a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship.

Questions for the Provost:

Q: How do these concerns address issues of intolerance especially toward Muslim students?
A: The President has asked Student Affairs officers and Chancellors to reach out to Muslim students to provide support.

Q: Prop 209 turns 20 next year, is it still an issue for our diversity efforts?  
A: Yes, although the number of Latino applications and enrollees grows substantially each year, the same is not true of African American students. The population of African American students and faculty at UC is at very low levels and challenges our ability to create a supportive campus climate for African American UC members.

Q: Will the President’s Postdoctoral Program be expanded in the hope of increasing campus diversity among the faculty?  
A: The report to the Regents will emphasize the success of this program and ask for more support. It will also highlight the K-12 efforts that are ongoing and also very successful.

Q: The Postdoctoral Search Waiver is presenting concerns on some of the campuses by shifting the academic mission in hiring out of the hands of the faculty and into the hands of the administration.  
A: No administrator should be able to tell a search committee who to hire. The administration should set up a different hiring process if a Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow is available and a good fit for the campus. More extended discussion of this issue is needed. Hires should always be done in the context of faculty needed on the campus. Susan Carlson and the Council of VPAP are writing a document about when and how search waivers can be used to meet diversity goals.

Business Items
 Approval Actions – The Assembly voted yes on three motions/changes to By-Law 140, Regulation 417, and Regulation 621. These items can be found on pages 77-79 in the full agenda. In brief, the wording of By-Law 140 was changed from “Affirmative Action and Diversity” to “Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Equity” throughout. The wording of Regulation 417 regarding Admission to Freshman Standing was changed from specifying that students have completed Community College to more general wording (lower division coursework, college level coursework post-graduation from an accredited secondary institution). The wording of Regulation 621 regarding Credit by Examination was changed from specifying Advanced Placement to the more general wording Standardized Examination Credit.