

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair of the Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

From: Thomas Cogswell, UCR Assembly Representative to the UC Academic Senate

RE: Report of the Meeting of the UC Academic Senate Assembly, February 14, 2018

Connoisseurs of Assembly meetings will be pleased to learn that the most recent meeting ran true to form. There were many announcements, some mundane and some promising, and a spirited discussion of proposals relative to Senate Regulation 424.A.3 [d]. Allow me to explain further.

In her remarks, President Napolitano stressed that she has turned over a new leaf – or at least, she was trying to do so. She has added the Systemwide Chair and Vice-Chair to her Advisory Group and appointed our own Dan Hare as her Faculty Advisor.¹ Likewise, she hopes to reboot her relationship with the governor and the legislature and to persuade the solons to augment the university's budget by adding an additional \$140 million. Half of that amount would go for a tuition buy-out, a quarter to various campus educational initiatives and a quarter for delayed maintenance. In response to continued complaints from Faculty Welfare, the Academic Council and the Assembly, she is also trying to find more money to begin the task of bring salaries back into line with the Comparison Eight universities. She also named a new Working Group to make recommendations about the Retiree Health Benefits. Finally, she welcomed the findings of the Huron Group [for more, see the report on the Fall Assembly meeting], but added that she would proceed cautiously in implementing any of its suggestions. Not surprisingly, the Academic Council has decided to suspend any formal statement on the President's actions during the recent State audit in hopes that she remains committed to transparency and shared governance. As is ever the lot of UC faculty members, we must live in hope.

Debate swirled about proposed changes to the admission requirements in Area D, which would increase the minimum from two to three courses, two of which would have to be in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and change the name of Area D from Laboratory Science to Science. This would bring UC requirements into line with the state's new common core for high school students. Some Assembly members were concerned about the impact of the changes on underrepresented groups. While 95% of all applicants had taken three or more Area D courses, 5% had not, and of that number, 60% came from underrepresented groups. In this debate, BOARS Chair Sanchez played a major role. He emphasized that of that 5%, half of them would meet the new standards, and he noted that the university's new commitment to comprehensive review would prevent a student from being rejected solely for their failure to take three science courses. The measure passed by the vote of 29 to 6 with one abstention.

Fiat lux!

¹ When you see Dan, be sure to thank him profusely for taking on this *uncompensated* assignment.