

To: Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

From: Thomas Cogswell and Manuela Martins-Green, UCR Assembly Representatives to the UC Academic Senate

RE: Report of the Meeting of the UC Academic Senate Assembly, June 12, 2019

UC Assembly, never renowned for exciting announcements and spirited debates, may well have reached unexpected levels of somnolence in its 12 June meeting. President Napolitano could not attend, and Provost Brown is on medical leave. In their absence, Vice Provost Susan Carlson and Senate Chair Robert May did their best to explain the latest developments.

First May and then Carlson reiterated the unfortunate news that the legislature has not provided permanent funding for the tuition buy-out, which will not be renewed next year. Instead the system will have to stump up some \$95 million out of its base budget, which – saints be praised -- will increase by 7%. Some re-allocations may reduce the deficit to a mere \$70 million. But whatever the exact size of the fiscal hole, the effect will be felt across the system. Most notably, the President almost certainly will have to revise downward her ambitious plan for an annual 5% increase in the salary scales over the next three years. Chair May speculated that she might adopt a four-year plan of 4% increases each year – or something even more notional.

Faculty retirees also received disappointing news. While the system is struggling to maintain existing levels of funding for their medical benefits, the inexorable financial pressures may force the system to reduce benefits, although all involved insisted that any reductions would only be taken under duress and after further consultation.

The system's boycott of Elsevier journals continues, and for the time being, we will continue to have access to their periodicals and databases. Nevertheless, the Assembly was warned that Elsevier could end access at any time. The librarians have contingency plans to deal with the ensuing crisis, but the faculty should prepare for possible delays in gaining access to articles.

The system is committed to assist UCSF after the federal government announced its opposition to the campus's scientific research involving fetal tissue, and after lengthy review and discussion among Senate committees and divisions, the university has declined to pursue a relationship with Dignity Health. Likewise, the university is busy backing away from its existing arrangements with Huawei Technologies. Finally, in the wake of various recent admissions scandals, the UC system is launching an internal audit of the matter, and the legislature may well begin its own investigation of admissions.

After the Assembly approved a few minor administrative matters, none of which generated any discussion, Chair May adjourned the meeting – to universal relief.