MEETING
The Riverside Division of the Academic Senate met on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 1:06 p.m. via Zoom. Chair J. Stajich presided. The meeting was attended by 168 members of the Riverside Division of the Academic Senate. Chair Stajich outlined Zoom protocol to ensure that attendees could participate during the meeting.

MINUTES
The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 1, 2020 were approved as presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT
There were no announcements by the President.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHANCELLOR AT RIVERSIDE
Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox addressed the Division.

Chancellor Wilcox shared recent news regarding the budget, including accomplishments ranging from $312 million through fundraising efforts to an increase from 26 to 72 endowed chairs. Furthermore, the legislature and the Governor have agreed to restore funding to various state units, including the University of California. It is anticipated that the legislature will increase the university’s state allocation to what it was last year. However, the university will still have had two years of cost increases, leaving an estimated 6 percent gap left. This is separate from the reductions that the university faced this past year. The state is moving quickly and it is anticipated that the legislature will vote soon on restoring funding to the UC. There is also one-time funding from the CARES Act to cover costs related to COVID-19. The Chancellor shared that once the administration knows how anticipated cuts can be reduced, this will be shared with the campus.

The Chancellor also discussed the Fall 2021 restart, which is very complex. Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Tom Smith is leading efforts for instructional continuity, Vice Chancellor Rodolfo Torres is leading research efforts, and Vice Chancellor Deborah Dees is leading the COVID-19 management work group. Each group is led by a Vice Chancellor to ensure there is accountability.

There were no questions/comments from the floor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE VICE CHANCELLORS
There were no announcements by the Vice Chancellors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE DEANS OR OTHER EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
Chair Stajich called upon the Secretary Parliamentarian to provide the report on election results. The Secretary Parliamentarian informed the Division that the results of the 2020-2021 recent elections for the Division, Colleges and Schools could be found on page 7 of the meeting agenda.

There was one position that had no more nominees than vacancies and there were no nominations received from the floor. The Division authorized the Secretary-Parliamentarian to cast a single ballot for this position.
The results of the 2020-21 recent elections are reported on page 7 of the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR
Chair Stajich shared that the Draft Strategic Plan has been shared with all Senate committees for review. The Strategic Plan is a very important document that charts the future of the campus. The Senate will compile a collection of the committee responses and share them with the administration.

Chair Stajich also acknowledged the hard work of faculty who have been teaching in a remote learning environment. Though this environment may feel normalized, it is challenging to deliver instruction remotely. Chair Stajich thanked faculty for their contributions and patience with the many technical and pedagogical changes. He also shared that the Senate has passed legislative changes to give students flexibility for when they can drop courses. Both students and faculty need support, and this will be a focus in the Spring meeting.

There were no questions/comments from the floor.

SPECIAL ORDERS
The Consent calendar was unanimously approved.

The degree reports and regular reports of standing committees and faculties were received and placed on file.

REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ASSEMBLY
Riverside Assembly Representative Professor Isgouhi Kaloshian provided the Division with a written report from the Assembly meeting on December 9, 2020. This report can be found on page 98 of the full agenda. There were no questions from the Division.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES
There were no reports of Special Committees.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND FACULTIES
Professor Jonathan Eacott, Vice Chair of the Committee on Committees, introduced and moved for adoption of the Committee on Committees proposed changes to Charge of the Committee on Bylaw 6.4.4.1, found on page 101 of the full agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Professor Amanda Lucia, Chair of the Graduate Council, introduced and moved for adoption of Committee on Educational Policy and Graduate Council proposal for COVID-19 Response Temporary Modifications to UCR Regulations for Spring 2021 and Summer 2021, found on page 104 of the full agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Professor Theodore Garland, Chair of the Faculty Executive Committee of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, introduced and moved for adoption of the proposal for a Graduate Program Name Change from Geological Sciences to Earth & Planetary Sciences, found on page 105 of the full agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Professor Subramanian Balachander, Chair of the Faculty Executive Committee of the School of Business, introduced and moved for adoption of the revised proposal to Convert the Business Administration Major (BSAD) from a Two-Year Upper-Division Major to a Four-Year Major, found on page 114 of the full agenda.
There was significant discussion about changing BSAD from a two-year to a four-year major. Some strengths of the proposal included enhanced extracurricular programming and student support services, particularly regarding academic advising. Furthermore, internship experience is particularly important for a professional degree, such as business. If students become BSAD majors sooner in their studies, they will have more time to plan for these internships and join extracurricular activities, such as student clubs.

Many faculty members raised skepticism about this proposal being revenue neutral for the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS), since CHASS would lose a significant number of undergraduate students. There were also concerns about support services for low performing students, particularly those struggling in lower division mathematics courses. Others stressed the importance of a well-rounded liberal arts education.

The motion was not approved, with 61 votes in support of the motion, 161 against the motion, and 9 abstentions.

PETITIONS OF STUDENTS
There were no petitions from the students.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
There was no unfinished business.

UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY WELFARE
Committee on Faculty Welfare Chair Patricia Morton gave a presentation on COVID impacts on faculty. COVID-19 has hurt many faculty members, particularly women faculty and faculty of color. While there are many work groups that have formed in response to COVID-19, there is not currently a work group that addresses the pressing need for faculty career support.

Professor Morton shared some recommendations that have been provided by the systemwide Committee on Faculty Welfare (UCFW), which include providing financial support for faculty with caregiving responsibilities and adopting Achievement Relative to Opportunity (ARO) principles. Other long-term recommendations include childcare support, family-friendly policies, and providing housing assistance more transparently.

In regard to career advancement, currently COVID impact statements are optional for merit and promotion files. However, many times these statements divulge personal details that faculty members do not want to be revealed. Furthermore, stopping the clock sets back the careers of our faculty members and can limit leadership opportunities.

There were some questions regarding ARO principles, in particular the idea of changing one’s expectations but not standards. Professor Morton shared that there are scholarly articles about ARO. An example of an ARO principle is expecting an excellent article or report, though the number of articles may be fewer than in previous years. Other faculty members also addressed stop the clock and retroactive salary. Though both of these may sound positive, faculty members most impacted by COVID-19 could benefit from this support right now, rather than in the future.

NEW BUSINESS
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

ATTEST:
F. Xu, Secretary-Parliamentarian
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

Rosana Franco
Recording Secretary