

To: Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

From: Manuela Martins-Green, UCR Assembly Representative to the UC Academic Senate

RE: Report of the Meeting of the UC Academic Senate Assembly, April 10, 2019

After the meeting was called to order and roll taken, we heard from the Chair of the Academic Council, Robert May, the UC President and the UC Provost. Here are the major highlights of the presentations.

Chair of Council

1. Revisions to the Senate wide Bylaw 336. I will quote below the essence of the bylaw, the rationale for the changes and key passages of this bylaw and its revisions:

“**Bylaw 336** prescribes the procedures and timelines for Privilege and Tenure proceedings in discipline cases.”

“In June 2018, the California State Auditor (CSA) released an audit report entitled “The University of California Office of the President: It Must Take Steps to Address Issues With Its Response to Sexual Harassment Complaints. The report was accepted by President Napolitano, and the Board of Regents has directed the Academic Senate to implement the CSA recommendations by July 2019. The CSA report recommends that the Academic Senate revise its bylaws (i.e., SBL 336) concerning the Committee on Privilege and Tenure procedures for handling disciplinary cases as follows:

(a) A hearing should be required to begin no later than 60 calendar days after charges have been filed by the Chancellor, unless an extension is granted for good cause. The notion of ‘good cause’ should be defined.

(b) A hearing committee should be required to deliver its report to the Chancellor no later than 30 calendar days after the conclusion of the hearing, and the phrase ‘conclusion of the hearing’ should be precisely defined.”

“An ad-hoc Work Group was convened by the Academic Senate leadership over the summer of 2018 to develop concrete proposals for revising the bylaws in order to comply with the CSA recommendations.”

The critical parts of the revised bylaw stipulate:

“1) Hearings on Sexual Violence Sexual Harassment [SVSH] complaints against faculty respondents be scheduled before the Senate P&T Committee no more than 60 days after the Chancellor files charges, unless an extension is granted for good cause,” [which defined as “material or unforeseen circumstances related to the complaint and sufficient to justify the extension sought.”]

2) P&T issue its recommendation to the Chancellor no more than 30 days after a hearing concludes. The revisions to Bylaw 336 significantly compress and streamline current divisional P&T processes.”

“The Chancellor is deemed to know about an alleged violation of the Faculty Code of Conduct when it is reported to any academic administrator at the level of department chair or above or, additionally, for an allegation of sexual violence or sexual harassment, when the allegation is first reported to the campus Title IX Officer. The Chancellor must file disciplinary charges by delivering notice of proposed disciplinary action to the respondent no later than three years after the Chancellor is deemed to have known about the alleged violation. There is no limit on the time within which a complainant may report an alleged violation.”

“In addition, while the Auditor’s recommendations pertain only to disciplinary cases involving SVSH, UCPT felt it would be important for Bylaw 336 to define a uniform procedure for handling all alleged violations of the faculty code of conduct, irrespective of their nature.”

2. Transfer of Students from Community Colleges. It is important to monitor preparation of Transfer Students because President Napolitano wants a 4-year graduation for these students.
3. Admission Scandals – more indictments. We don’t know how many UC campuses are involved but there is a case at UCLA and one at UCB. Because the admissions were fraudulent, the degrees were not valid. At this point we don’t know if there are other cases in the UC. But if so, procedures will be put in place to prevent these situations.
4. Evaluation of the professor by students. Robert May received a request from UCAP and UCAADE to review student’s evaluation of professors.
5. New Midcareer Awards. As we all know, the Oliver Johnson award is endowed to honor a senior faculty member at UC who has made major contributions to the Senate overall. Recently, “an endowment has been created for an award for Mid-Career Leadership in the Academic Senate to honor individuals whose records demonstrate an exceptional ability to work effectively with different University constituents and exceptional promise for further service to the Senate. The award is planned to be given every other year. Nominations for the award are made through Divisional Committees on Committees to the University Committee on Committees (UCOC). UCOC, in turn, submits the names of two nominees to the Academic Council.”

The first awardees are Sean Malloy from UCM and Onyebuchi Arah from UCLA. For more information on both please visit the Academic Council Website.

President Napolitano

1. Budget and faculty salaries. In February, the Governor proposed an increase for the UC system of \$240 M for 2019-20 but the President announced that this is 180 M below our request for our ongoing needs. The President proposed an increase of 14M for the 3rd year of program to close the faculty salary gap. She will try to do that in 19-20 but she might need to make an extension to 4 years instead of the 3 years she preferred.
2. Tuition. We are not raising the tuition to our students and the Regents did not approve the non-resident state tuition.
3. March Regents Meeting. At the March Regents meeting there was a discussion on a multi-year budget and enrolment plan to work on more stable and secure funding.
4. Admission Scandal continues to draw a lot of attention in Sacramento and across the country. At UCB & UCLA a former employee took a bribe. At both campuses the students submitted SAT scores when they themselves did not take the SAT. The President is taking a closer look at this by mapping out what each campus is doing about special admissions or admission by exception, which involve students who don’t have all the qualifications for variety of reasons but they are otherwise eligible and have a special talent such athletics, arts etc. 6% can be admitted this way, but in practice the UC only admit 2% in this manner. She and her staff are closely investigating this situation.
5. Free Speech. President Trump ordered all Universities to uphold federal law for public Universities.
6. Elsevier. The UC is continuing to work on the best deal for our system. The surprise is that we are not working more effectively with other universities in the United States and especially with those in the European Union, which seem to be ahead of us in these discussions.

Election of the Vice-Chair elect for the Academic Council.

The Academic Council elected Mary Gauvain from UCR to serve as Vice-Chair of the Academic Council in 2019-2020 and then Chair in 2020-2021. Well done, Mary!

Provost Michael Brown

The Provost said that he did not have anything to add to the comments of the President but that he wanted to reaffirm his commitment to the growth of the graduate student body and its diversity.