

UC Assembly Meeting
June 10, 2020
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This meeting was held on a special day when ShutDown Academia was scheduled. During the meeting Chair Kum-Kum Bhavnani reminding the Assembly the reason for the call for ShutDown Academia and the recent events, including the murder of George Floyd by police, that resulted in the social upheaval. Throughout the Assembly meeting, Kum-Kum took the time to reflect on these issues which culminated, at the end of the meeting, with her reading the last words of George Floyd as he took his last few breaths. It was heartbreaking to listen to these words.

Jennifer Najera (UCR) was confirmed as the Systemwide CoC Chair.

Preliminary results from the systemwide remote teaching and learning survey were presented. The consensus was that remote learning is more difficult for students and remote teaching is more difficult for faculty. Students learned less and their engagement was lower than in-person learning. The faculty teaching load was much heavier than in-person instruction and they had difficulty reaching out to students who needed more help. Academic integrity was a serious issue for this platform of teaching. A full analysis of this data will be available early fall.

Several issues related to minority and black constituents of the University were addressed including:

- I. Policing on campuses: Systemwide level campus police policy.
<https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000382/PoliceProceduresManual>
The 2019 Report of the Policing Task Force
https://www.ucop.edu/policing-task-force/policing-task-force-report_2019.pdf

How to disarm campus police was addressed:

A detailed written guideline on training campus police in the use of force.

Tom Cogswell indicated the need for UC to investigate campus police throughout the system and develop recommendations. Apparently, this will happen at UCR.

A committee that includes members of the community was recommended to be part of a task force to address these issues.

- II. Retaining black and minority faculty:
Evaluating leaders based on their accomplishments in issues related to diversity and equity. The need for further faculty training in DEI, beyond simply writing a DEI statement. This can be done at several levels including divisional Senate Chairs and Department Chairs. A video from UCI reporting the perspective of black students and faculty was recommended -The 2%: Navigating UCI as a Black Student:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRTIWvPEesM>

The discussion also included the need to support communities of color early on, in schools and high schools to improve their future prospects and prepare them for UC admission.

President Napolitano joined the group.

1. She immediately reflected on the day, the murder of George Floyd, and issues related to black communities. She acknowledged the need for UC systemwide police policy beyond state and federal guidelines. She indicated that a task force will be appointed at the UCOP level to address issues related to employment, climate, and advancement affected by racism. The need to educate our graduates about racism in the historical context is important.
2. She indicated the appointment of a new chancellor at Merced.
3. She reflected on the SAT action taken by the Board of Regents. The next item will be a feasibility study for UC to have its own admissions test to focus on the A to G requirement, with a deadline of January 2021. Apparently, Cal State wants to join this effort. If the need for our own test will be recommended, then the test should be available by 2024 for the class of 2025.
4. COVID-19 and its effects on opening campuses: She acknowledged the challenges campuses face and the need to mitigate affects and spread of COVID-19 on campuses. She mentioned the existence of a systemwide task force to address some of these issues. The task force has come up with a set of recommendations regarding testing, contact tracing and physical distancing. (I serve on this committee). Campuses will decide whether they will have any in-person classes.
5. Budget: Some good news was delivered on this front. The legislature has recommended restoration of 5% of the 10% cut indicated by the Governor. Full funding (\$25M) of the UCR SOM has been recommended. At the end, the UC budget will depend on federal funding to CA. Several budgetary scenarios continue to be considered. UC is considering to be in the bond market since borrowing money is inexpensive.

The president also touched on 1) the revised rule from the Department of Education on Title 9 and the need to revise UC rules, and 2) the Regents meeting in July will address comprehensive access health-based hospitals UC affiliates with.

Finally, the President indicated that she will join the faculty of UC Berkeley in July.

Provost Michael Brown visited with us briefly. He reflected on the events of the day and the SAT test decision.

Jean Daniel Saphores, Chair of Systemwide Faculty Welfare, addressed a number of issues that have been raised with Suzan Carlson and Michael Brown. These include: 1) work flexibility for faculty, staff and learning for students in this period; 2) transparency of UC investments; 3) concerns about the financial situation because of the COVID-19 pandemic; 4) policing on UC campuses and the recommendation in 2017 for the development of a Campus Public Safety Advisory Board; 5) systemic discrimination of minorities: (a) poorly prepared minority/black students are moved among departments

without additional help; (b) minority faculty are not well informed about UC-offered financial resources; (c) the need for administrators to show their accomplishments regarding minority faculty retentions.

Kum-Kum reflected on: 1) the alternative test to the SAT and the need to work with Provost Brown for the composition of the task force; 2) how to address the results of the remote teaching and learning survey considering summer recess; 3) the UCOC task force, that will be formed this summer, should be represented by diverse disciplines and have representation of diversity; 4) the Trump administration's recent guidelines related to foreign influence and how it relates to foreign students, particularly students from China. CCGA is working on this now.

A new UC president should be announced end of June.