

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION**

MEETING

The Riverside Division of the Academic Senate met on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 1:03 p.m. via Zoom. Chair J. Stajich presided. The meeting was attended by 53 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 November 30, 2021 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 that he had just attended a Board of Regents emergency meeting. The meeting addressed a recent lawsuit against UC Berkeley related to student population growth. This lawsuit has huge implications for the University of California system and is being followed very closely.

Chancellor Wilcox also discussed key state legislative priorities, including climate change and equity. Both of these issues are also key priorities for the University of California and UC Riverside, in particular. Thus, it is important to elucidate the links between our university and climate change and equity to state leaders.

There were no questions/comments from the floor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE VICE CHANCELLORS

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor (PEVC) Elizabeth Watkins addressed the Division.

PEVC Watkins thanked Senate members for their participation in the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation process. The WASC team commended UCR's responsiveness and commitment to address the issues raised during the previous WASC visit. They also asked UCR for continued assessment of academic programs via program reviews.

PEVC Watkins also shared that there has been a pause on the strategic plan. She thanked those who had worked on the latest iteration of the strategic plan, as some of our greatest thinkers were a part of the process. However, the significance of COVID-19 pandemic cannot be overstated, and we are in a different place compared to when the strategic planning process started.

Furthermore, PEVC Watkins shared that she is working on a strategic planning white paper, which has been shared with the Provost Cabinet thus far. The PEVC will work with schools and colleges, Senate, and faculty executive committees on strategic planning next steps.

There was a comment from the floor regarding reminding faculty to upload their syllabi to the syllabus repository, which is tied to the assessment process for academic programs. With that, PEVC Watkins concluded her remarks.

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 2021-2022 recent elections for the Division, Colleges and Schools could be found on page 7 of the meeting agenda.

There were several positions 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 all open positions.

The results of the 2021-22 recent elections are reported on page 7 of the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Chair Stajich shared that systemwide Senate Chair Robert Horwitz has made the climate crisis a key priority in the Academic Senate. There have been several recent meetings about climate change, as well as a memorial to the Regents that is currently being discussed in the Academic Assembly. This memorial will come to our Riverside Senate Division, where it will be discussed.

Chair Stajich also shared that systemwide Senate committees have focused on the impact of the COVID-pandemic on the merits and promotions process. Chair Stajich commended the hard work of Vice Provost of Academic Personnel (VPAP) and Senate colleagues to develop strategies to support faculty during the pandemic. There are also ongoing conversations about how to approach remote work and teaching. On some UC campuses, particularly those with a high cost of living, conversations about the future of remote teaching are ongoing.

On a related note, there are also conversations about online degrees at some UC campuses. While they offer benefits, online degrees also pose many issues, particularly in regard to academic integrity. In conjunction with Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education (VPDUE), the Senate has worked on starting an academic integrity task force. There will also be a joint Senate/Administration teaching committee, which builds on the recommendations of the teaching evaluation task force that finished its work last year.

There was a question regarding the status of the proposed changes to the General Education curriculum. Chair Stajich replied that we want to build on the proposal that was completed by the Senate Ad Hoc General Education Review Committee but the suggested changes are yet to be finalized. The general education review remains an ongoing process.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The Consent calendar was unanimously approved.

The annual reports of standing committees, 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 David Biggs provided the Division with a written report from the Assembly meeting on December 8, 2021. This report can be found on page 48 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 Don Collins, Chair of the Graduate Council, introduced and moved for adoption the nomination of Professor Nael Abu-Ghazaleh, from the Department of Computer Science & Engineering and the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, as the recipient of the 2020-2021 Dissertation Advisor/Mentoring Award. The contributions of Professor Abu-Ghazaleh are summarized on page 51 of the full agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Professor Don Collins, Chair of the Graduate Council, introduced and moved for adoption of the Graduate Council 3rd Round-Proposed changes to GR4 Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, GR4.5 Qualifying Examination, Qualifying Committee and Advancement to Candidacy and GR4.6 Dissertation Requirements, found on page 52 of the full agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Professor Victor Rodgers, Chair of the Bourns School of Engineering Faculty Executive Committee, introduced and moved for adoption of the Revised Proposal for a Proposed Bachelor of Science in Robotics Engineering, found on page 63 of the full agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Professor Barry Mishra, Chair of the School of Business Faculty Executive Committee, introduced and moved for adoption of the proposal for an Undergraduate Major in Actuarial Science, found on page 128 of the full agenda. The motion was approved with 3 votes in opposition.

Professor Barry Mishra, Chair of the School of Business Faculty Executive Committee, introduced and moved for adoption of the proposal to rename the UCR Ph.D. in Management to Ph.D. in Business Administration, found on page 169 of the full agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Professor Katherine Stavropoulos, Chair of the Committee on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, introduced and moved for adoption of the Proposed Resolution on Centrality of Academic Freedom Relative to Content Pertaining to Critical Studies, found on page 173 of the full agenda. The motion was approved with 1 vote in opposition.

PETITIONS OF STUDENTS

There were no petitions from the students.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY WELFARE

Chair Stajich introduced the topic "UCR Sustainability Efforts" and the guest speakers: Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development (VCRED) Rodolfo Torres, Professor Francesca Hopkins and Professor Matthew Barth.

VCRED Torres discussed the OASIS project, a proposed development project in Riverside that will center regional economic development, sustainability, innovation, and social inclusion. OASIS addresses the fact that many UCR graduates commute to coastal areas for work. By providing regional economic development opportunities locally, OASIS aims to keep jobs in Riverside. A

feasibility study has already been conducted for the proposed site on University Avenue. This strategic location aims to connect our campus to Downtown Riverside.

There was significant discussion about the project, including comments about the need to center biodiversity, not just economic development. There were concerns about new buildings and corporations that may not align with our mission of sustainability and social inclusion.

There was also significant discussion about the effects of the project on gentrification. In particular, there were comments about the impact of this project on vulnerable populations along the University Avenue corridor. VCRED Torres acknowledged that gentrification is a risk but expressed that the university has been working with various community organizations to garner support for the project.

After VCRED Torres's presentation concluded, Professor Francesca Hopkins gave a presentation on a vision for a more interdisciplinary sustainability curriculum at UCR. Professor Hopkins expressed that UCR has many assets when it comes to sustainability, including facilities such as fields and natural reserves, which act like labs for sustainability. Furthermore, Professor Hopkins stressed the need for sustainability curriculum to be locally engaged.

There was discussion about UCR's existing sustainability programs, including the BS in Sustainability Studies offered by CHASS. The BS in Sustainability Studies is centered around environmental justice and local engagement. There was a call to support this program in CHASS, just as other sustainability programs are supported in other schools and colleges. There was also discussion about more coordination across sustainability programs across campus.

Lastly, Professor Matthew Barth gave a presentation on the UCR Office of Sustainability. Professor Barth discussed the UC Carbon Neutrality Initiative, which aims for the UC to be carbon neutral by 2025. This initiative was spearheaded by then President Janet Napolitano in 2013 and continues to have support from President Michael V. Drake.

Professor Barth also discussed sustainability curriculum and a possible sustainability minor. He also shared that there is a sustainability retreat planned for April 22 at the Botanical Gardens and extended an invitation for faculty to attend.

There was discussion about the environmental impact of students commuting to campus, including getting more students to ride the bus to UCR. After the discussion concluded, Chair Stajich thanked all speakers and asked for continued work around sustainability on campus. For the Academic Senate, specifically, next steps include possibly starting a Senate sustainability committee.

NEW BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

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

Rosana Franco
Recording Secretary