

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

**MEETING**

The Riverside Division of the Academic Senate met on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 1:03 p.m. via Zoom. Chair J. Stajich presided. The meeting was attended by 60 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 February 23, 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 asked for a moment of silence to mark a year since the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. Chancellor Wilcox also asked attendees to remember the past pandemic year and everything that our campus community has endured.

The Chancellor then spoke about efforts related to return to campus in Fall 2021, all under the overall approach of being safe, flexible, and respectful. Changes will be communicated in the next coming months, so it is imperative to keep our whole community safe and remain flexible. Chancellor Wilcox also acknowledged Zoom fatigue and uncertainty fatigue that many are enduring, creating an even greater need for flexibility.

Chancellor Wilcox also spoke about the decision to create a Division of Health, Well-being and Safety, which aims to better assist members of our community. This reorganization will be part of other changes across campus, particularly in regard to how safety looks like on campus. Furthermore, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Elizabeth Watkins is leading a campus safety workgroup and Vice Chancellor & Chief Diversity Officer Mariam Lam is leading a campus accountability board.

The Chancellor then presented Assistant Professor Hollis Woodard, Department of Entomology, and Assistant Professor Jeff Perry, Department of Biochemistry, with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement. The Chancellor congratulated them for their work and asked for a virtual applause for Assistant Professor Woodard and Assistant Professor Perry.

Lastly, the Chancellor introduced Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Elizabeth Watkins, who will be taking a lead role in campus safety, the budget advisory process, and our return to campus.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE VICE CHANCELLORS**

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

The PEVC's remarks focused on three main topics: the campus finance committee, the university strategic plan, and return to campus. In regard to the campus finance committee, PEVC Watkins shared that this committee brings together 21 leaders from across the campus to address how we allocate resources at UCR. The group includes Deans, Vice Chancellors, the Senate Chair, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Planning and Budget, and the Staff Assembly Chair. The group will meet on a biweekly to monthly basis, and members will be responsible for facilitating two-way communication between their respective constituencies and the committee.

PEVC Watkins then spoke about the university strategic plan, a process that has been ongoing for over two years. Many passionate responses were received from department chairs and the Academic Senate. PEVC Watkins is currently reading and digesting this written work. Furthermore, she plans on meeting with these groups to discuss next steps for a strategic plan that will represent our collective ambitions.

Regarding return to campus, PEVC Watkins shared that she looks forward to welcoming two cohorts of students, since last year's first year students were never on campus. More than 80 percent of courses taught in the Fall will be in person. There are efforts underway to identify indoor and outdoor locations for WiFi access to online courses. The administration is also thinking carefully about how the pandemic will continue impacting members of our community and will continue addressing concerns that faculty and staff have regarding the UC vaccine mandate.

Lastly, PEVC Watkins discussed concerns from members of the Faculty Executive Committee of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences regarding a proposed plan informing students about remote learning options for Fall 2021. Particularly, there were concerns about a lack of Senate consultation. Therefore, the Instructional Continuity Work Group has asked the Senate Executive Council for guidance regarding this proposal. If the Executive Council rejects the proposal, the Instructional Continuity Work Group hopes that an alternative proposal is provided. PEVC Watkins hopes that we come to some consensus that meets the needs of both our students and faculty.

There were no questions/comments from the floor.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE DEANS OR OTHER EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Chair Stajich called upon Vice Chair Christiane Weirauch, on behalf of the Secretary Parliamentarian, to provide the report on election results. Vice Chair Weirauch informed the Division that the results of the 2021-2022 recent elections for the Division, Colleges and Schools could be found on page 12-15 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 Vice Chair Weirauch, on behalf of the Secretary-Parliamentarian, to cast a single ballot for all open positions.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

Chair Stajich informed the Division about the different business items that the Academic Senate is currently working on. As PEVC Watkins mentioned, the Executive Council received a request regarding the proposal for remote options for Fall 2021. The Senate is currently discussing and debating the workload impact of delivering this promise. This proposal will be soon sent the Faculty Executive Committees for feedback so that faculty can voice any concerns they may have.

Chair Stajich also shared that the General Education Review Committee has nearly completed their final report, which should be finalized within the next month. Committee members have put

in a lot of work to develop this proposal. After the report is finalized, there will be a huge effort underway to implement changes to general education curriculum and we will work with the campus community on next steps.

Chair Stajich also shared the Ad Hoc Committee on the Evaluation of Teaching, which has met over three years, has produced a report that has been shared with the administration. The Senate Chair also commended everyone for work on proposed changes to the UC Gold Book.

Furthermore, Senate Chair Stajich acknowledged the impact this pandemic has had on our faculty. In addition to the mental toll, he recognized that the research mission of many faculty has been put on hold. Chair Stajich invited the Provost to think about how to support our faculty, particularly early career faculty, as well as our graduate students. There is currently a graduate finance working group, which addresses the financing of graduate students. Professor Kevin Esterling, Chair of committee, has spearheaded a report on this topic that is currently circulating this through the Graduate Council.

Chair Stajich closed by recognizing, as the Chancellor did, that May 25, 2021 is the one-year anniversary of the murder of George Floyd.

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 Representatives, Professor Peter Chung and Professor Isgouhi Kaloshian, provided the Division with written reports from the Assembly meetings on February 10, 2021 and April 14, 2021. The reports can be found on page 456 and 458, respectively, on 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 Georgia Warnke introduced and moved adoption of the nomination of Professor Norman Isgouhi Kaloshian, Department of Nematology, Professor Katherine Borkovich, Department of Microbiology & Plant Pathology, and Professor Tuppert Yates, Department of Psychology, as the recipients of the Distinguished Campus Service Award. The contributions of Distinguished Professors Kaloshian, Borkovich, and Yates are summarized in the report of the Committee, found on pages 461 and 463 of the full agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Distinguished Professor Susan Straight introduced and moved adoption of the nomination of Associate Professor Erin Rankin, Department of Entomology, and Professor Erith Jaffe-Berg, Department of Theatre, Film & Digital Production, as the recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award. The contributions of Professor Rankin and Professor Jaffe-Berg are summarized in the report of the Committee found on pages 465 and 468 of the full agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Distinguished Professor David Reznick introduced and moved adoption of the nomination of Distinguished Professor Francisco Zaera, Department of Chemistry, as the Faculty Research Lecturer for 2021-2022. The contributions of Distinguished Professor Zaera are summarized in the report of the Committee found on page 471 of the full agenda. The motion was approved with one vote in opposition.

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 Joint Microbiology BS/Microbiology MS Five-Year Combined Degree Program, found on page 473 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 Joint Statistics BS/Statistics MS Five-Year Combined Degree Program, found on page 502 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 proposed changes to the College Board Advanced Placement Examination Credit for Environmental Science, found on page 518 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 proposed changes to the College Board Advanced Placement Examination Credit for Statistics, found on page 522 of the full agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Senate Chair Stajich, on behalf of Professor Joseph Kahne, Chair of the GSOE Executive Committee, introduced and moved for adoption of the proposed Simple Name Change for the Graduate School of Education, found on page 524 of the full agenda. The motion was approved with one 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 “COVID-19 Campus Support for Faculty and Return to Campus” and the guest speaker, Vice Provost of Academic Personnel (VPAP) Dan Jeske.

VPAP Jeske shared that in December of 2020, the systemwide Committee on Faculty Welfare shared ways in which the different UC campuses can show more empathy toward our faculty. One of the main recommendations from the systemwide Committee on Faculty Welfare was to look at faculty as whole persons. The Academic Personnel Office (APO) has been thinking about this and tried to be responsive by making the recent addendum changes to the CALL.

The addendum to the CALL now allows faculty to provide a COVID-19 impact statement. If the bars were not met but faculty submitted their COVID-19 impact statement, then we would be able to consider the impact that the pandemic had on that faculty member and how that could derail

their path. If the bars were not met, faculty would not be eligible for a merit increase but they could receive a half step salary increase. This is aligned with the spirit of Achievement Relative to Opportunity (ARO) principles. In the future, the VPAP shared that the impact statement will be broader than COVID-19, meaning that it could cover other issues impacting productivity like childcare and bereavement. This is a broader way to show empathy to our faculty and each other. Lastly, VPAP Jeske also shared that on the APO website, there are links to equity studies. There are various statistical analyses on faculty salaries with respect to gender and ethnicity.

There was discussion about starting salaries and how they reflect already existing discrepancies based on race and gender, the need to increase the number of women faculty hires, and the racial and ethnic composition of members of Senate Committees, including the Committee on Academic Personnel.

Furthermore, there was significant discussion about search committees, which usually require senior faculty. Some shared anecdotally that senior women faculty may be reluctant to serve on these search committees because of their already existing service commitments. There was clarification that junior faculty are also needed to sit on search committees, particularly those for deans. There were concerns about the large time commitment that sitting on search committees would create for junior faculty, though some stressed the importance of still inviting junior faculty to sit on these committees and have them decline, should they wish to.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

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

Rosana Franco  
Recording Secretary