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# Academic *Senate*

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2013

Greetings from the Divisional Senate -

The May budget revise brought no new cuts to state support for UC, and the University just announced a small but welcome salary increase for non-represented employees effective July 1, 2013. However, the state still has not resumed contributions to the UC Retirement Plan on a par with CalPERS. And even as the academic year is about to come to a close, the Senate remains actively engaged in a number of pivotal issues. While SB 520, the controversial bill drafted by the 20 Million Minds Foundation and championed by State Senator Darrel Steinberg proposing that UC partner with private technology companies to provide general education online, continues to be debated, UC continues to deploy its own online learning technology initiative. The Academic Senate has gone on record against SB520, both in writing and in testimony in Sacramento. But the Senate also continues to be deeply involved in the development, testing, and evaluation of innovative learning technologies. Furthermore, the legislature proposed performance metrics tied to state funding that do not reflect an adequate understanding of the University, and the Senate is actively engaged in advocacy on that matter. These and other issues will carry into the summer and fall. – Please join me in congratulating UCI Division Chair Mary Gilly on being elected 2013-14 systemwide Senate Vice Chair! And make sure to stay actively engaged with your Divisional Senate when the new academic year starts, to help the campus maintain and improve the supportive environment needed to pursue scholarship and engage students in learning.

Peter Krapp, Chair Elect-Secretary  
Academic Senate, Irvine Division

PS: If you want to keep up to speed on the issues facing the university, you can also check out the new UCI Senate Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SenateUCI>

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## NEWS FROM THE CABINET AND DIVISIONAL SENATE ASSEMBLY

*Some notable completed actions by the Cabinet and/or Assembly during spring quarter:*

### *Campus Issues:*

- MD/MPH Dual Degree Program: The School of Medicine and the Program in Public Health submitted a proposal to establish a dual MD-MPH degree program. The aim of the proposal is to formally establishing a degree program for individuals who are seeking a career as physicians concerned about making a significant difference in community disease prevention. Currently UCI medical students are able to obtain the MD and MPH degrees through the PRIME-LC program or by individual student arrangement on an informal basis. The Cabinet approved the proposal at its April 2, 2013 meeting.
- Establishment of the Human Biology Major: The Cabinet voted to approve the major at its March 19, 2013 meeting.
- Proposal to Establish a B.S. in Cognitive Science: The major is structured to give students a challenging introduction to the broad field of Cognitive Sciences that is strongly grounded in theory and an empirical approach emphasizing experimental/computational methods. The proposed B.S. in Cognitive Sciences will complement the B.A. in Psychology but it differs from this major in (a) the stronger background required in mathematics, statistics, the natural, computer, and other sciences, (b) the research requirement, and (c) the expectation that all students will produce a thesis. The curriculum utilizes existing courses already being offered by Cognitive Sciences and various departments on campus. No additional faculty FTE is needed for the proposed major. The Cabinet unanimously endorsed the BS in Cognitive Science on April 16, 2013.
- Proposal to Establish a Ph.D. in Informatics: The proposed program will replace the current PhD in ICS with a concentration in Informatics. The concentration and the major code will be left open for Master's students. The Cabinet endorsed the proposal on May 7, 2013 and forwarded it to the systemwide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs and to the Interim EVC-Provost for transmittal to the Office of the President.
- Center for Complex Biological Systems ORU: The Cabinet voted to endorse the establishment of a new ORU, the Center for Complex Biological Systems on March 19, 2013. The issue will be forwarded to the Assembly.



### *Systemwide Issues (<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/>)*

- SR 478: The Senate received for targeted review legislation proposed by BOARS to amend SR 478 in order to facilitate lower-division preparation for aspiring transfer students intending to major in a STEM field. The Cabinet forwarded the Councils comments to systemwide.

- APM 600 Revisions: The Academic Council sent for systemwide review proposed revisions to multiple sections of the APM 600 series that are intended to create consistency and facilitate application to UC Path. The Cabinet forwarded the Councils' comments to systemwide, May 7, 2013.
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## **NEWS FROM THE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES**

### **Council on Educational Policy (CEP)**

The Council on Educational Policy (CEP) has reviewed and approved two new major proposals: the B.S. in Human Biology and the B.S. in Cognitive Sciences. The council expects to review major proposals in Education and Exercise Physiology during fall quarter, 2013. CEP also reviewed and commented on the 2013 Information and Computer Science External review and School response reports and the follow up report of the 2009 External Review of the School of Education. CEP has been charged with conducting a comprehensive review of DUE in the Fall of 2013.

CEP's subcommittee, the Subcommittee on Courses (SCOC) continues to review a number of courses for General Education designation and / or online delivery. SCOC will also re-evaluate a number of courses from non-academic units and determine whether these courses should continue to function as degree-credit bearing courses when workload credit assignment may be more appropriate.

CEP's Assessment Committee (AC) has learned recently that the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) will be implementing a new set of requirements for institutions of higher education to receive accreditation. The AC is concerned that WASC is overreaching its authority by imposing a new set of standards and measures of student success that will unlikely result in improved student learning and will demand significant unfunded resources. The AC has requested that CEP and the University Council on Educational Policy (UCEP) provide a statement to WASC in support of the Assessment Committee's recommendations.

### **Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom (CFW)**

The Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom (CFW) UC issues for Spring Quarter included review of the proposed revisions to APM Section IV, Salary Administration from the APM – 600 Series. CFW also was involved in developing the guidelines for the implementation of the negotiated salary trial program in the campus. Along with UCI Mental Health Initiative, the Offices of EVCP and Vice Provost, CFW facilitated the department chair's training program on faculty mental health issues presented by the experts in the counseling center. These training programs were conducted on May 1, and May 16, 2013.

UC is implementing Composite Benefits Rate (CBR) for charging faculty/staff benefits to federal grants. It has been proposed that summer salary of faculty, which is currently charged around 10-12.5% for payroll taxes, be charged a benefit rate of around 35% under CBR, which includes health care cost and retirement contribution, although no additional health care or retirement benefits will be given for this extra contribution. The Academic Senate is working with the administration to address this issue. CFW sends a representative to Chancellor's Child Care Advisory Committee. UC Irvine Child Care Services celebrated the new Infant Toddler Center with an Open House on May 14, 2013. A ChildrenFirst campaign for fundraising for UC Irvine child care services has started. We encourage faculty and staff to participate in this campaign. Senate members are encouraged to forward issues related to faculty welfare, academic freedom, affirmative action and diversity, and emeriti affairs to the Council for review and discussion.

As a reminder to all members of the Academic Senate, when active or retired members of the Academic Senate pass away, departments are expected to prepare a Memorial Resolution that will be published on the UC Academic Senate's In Memoriam website. Guidelines for submitting Memorial Resolutions are published on CFW's web page: [http://www.senate.uci.edu/Councils/CFW/WebInfoRe\\_InMemoriam.pdf](http://www.senate.uci.edu/Councils/CFW/WebInfoRe_InMemoriam.pdf)

### **Council on Planning and Budget (CPB)**

During the winter quarter, the Council reviewed the systemwide Undergraduate Financial Aid Funding Options for setting UC's funding commitment starting in 2014-15. Of the three options presented, CPB observed that: 1) Option A would raise tuition the most, so it is more likely to raise a backlash against UC; 2) Option C, basically the status quo, seems the most consistent with the original intent and philosophies of UC's student aid policies and therefore is an attractive option for the UC system's accessibility goals; it has the drawback that UC Irvine would remain a net payer; and 3) Option B would likely benefit the UC Irvine campus' unique situation of being a net payer to the system.

At the campus level, the Council reviewed the following proposals:

- The proposed establishment of a dual MD/MPH degree program in the School of Medicine and the Program in Public Health was endorsed by CPB.
- The proposed establishment of a B.S. in Cognitive Sciences in the School of Social Sciences was endorsed by CPB.
- The proposed establishment of a Ph.D. in Informatics in the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences was endorsed by CPB.
- The proposed establishment of the Center for Complex Biological Systems as an Organized Research Unit was endorsed by CPB.
- The proposed establishment of the Center for Virtual Environments and Computer Games as an Organized Research Unit was endorsed by CPB.

The Council invited Vice Chancellor Leet to its February 13, 2013 meeting, Director Demerjian and Director Mason to its March 13, 2013 meeting, and Dean Leslie to its April 24, 2013 meeting to provide an update on their respective areas. Other representatives from campus areas that are relevant to CPB's charge will be invited to future Council meetings.

#### **Council on Research, Computing and Libraries (CORCL)**

Applications to the 2012-13 Cultural Diversity Faculty Research Grants have been reviewed and selected by CORCL, which awarded one proposal at \$5,000. To increase the number of applications, the 2013-14 call will be revised to attract faculty interest. CORCL members, particularly in Arts and Humanities, will be encouraged to contact department chairs in their schools, urging them to mention the call at department meetings.

Applications to the 2012-13 Single and Multi-Investigator Faculty Research Grants are being reviewed by CORCL.

At the campus level and at the request of Vice Chancellor Hemminger, the Council discussed the possibility of setting up an umbrella organization to support environment research in various academic units across campus.

At the systemwide level, in response to a Request for Information (RFI) from the National Science Board Task Force on Administrative Burdens, the Council reviewed the issue of reducing faculty administrative workload for federally funded research. The Council also provided input on a draft survey developed by UCORP which was used in addition to the RFI to collect university-wide data on this issue.

Additionally, the Council reviewed the proposed revisions to APM 241 – Appointment of Multicampus Research Unit (MRU) Directors. The proposal notes that the revisions will bring APM 241 into conformance with Regents Policy and with the Compendium of Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units, and Research Units. The authority to appoint systemwide MRU Directors will lie with the President of the University instead of campus Chancellors. The Council had no specific concerns with regard to the proposed revisions and supports the changes.

At its June meeting, CORCL will review renewal applications of 10 Campus Centers.

#### **Council on Student Experience (CSE)**

In the Winter Quarter the Council on Student Experience (CSE) reviewed the proposed amendments to Senate Regulations, including SR 478 to accommodate "IGETC for STEM Majors". SR478 was rewritten for clarity and to make it more similar to the high school "a-g" course requirements detailed in SR424. The proposed changes are to facilitate lower-division major preparation for aspiring transfer students intending to major in a STEM field. Additionally, the proposed changes include a new "IGETC for STEM Majors"

option in SR478 and eliminates the existing “SciGETC” option. The Council perceived the changes to have an overall positive effect and endorsed the proposed changes. Council members however, noted the changes should be monitored to evaluate the impact on lower division enrollment.

At the campus level, CSE continues with its development of the draft Academic Integrity Policy. Both the Council on Education Policy and the Graduate Council and reviewed the draft and offered constructive feedback. CSE’s workgroup plans to make additional modifications to the draft over the summer and will present the draft to the full Council for final review Fall 2013.

### **Graduate Council (GC)**

PLOs and Doc2A and whatever seems noteworthy among the regular business we did (e.g. GC and CCGA approval of Public Health Ph.D.)

#### *GC Statement of Diversity*

In response to ADVANCE Director Doug Haynes’ request, Graduate Council (GC) endorsed a statement on diversity and added a question about diversity to the graduate degree proposal template.

GC Statement:

*Diversity is critical to the success of graduate education and is a key priority for our campus. Diversity enhances excellence by opening programs to talented and accomplished individuals who represent and reflect a rich tapestry of perspectives and identities. Having diverse graduate populations also ensures that a broad range of approaches, questions and solutions are incorporated into scientific inquiry, scholarly study, and artistic creativity. Our commitment to an equitable education environment for all is crucial to our continuing capacity to be a national model for inclusive excellence. Graduate Council, therefore, strongly encourages all programs on campus to develop and implement initiatives, such as supportive mentoring, to enhance diversity and to create an inclusive and equitable climate for graduate study.*

Diversity Question:

*What efforts will be made to ensure the programs develop and implement initiatives, to enhance diversity and to create an inclusive and equitable climate for graduate study? This may include yield activities, criteria for admission, supportive mentoring, and retention efforts.*

#### *Reducing Number of Graduate Students with Doc2A Status*

Doctoral 2A (Doc 2A) Status refers to graduate students who are enrolled beyond nine quarters or six semesters after advancement to candidacy and who by long-standing UC policy are ineligible for state funding (about \$11K per student). While these students remain enrolled and continue to use campus resources to varying degrees, campuses receive no funding for them. Graduate Division reported that the number of students with Doc 2A status has crept up significantly in recent years. The Graduate Council’s Subcommittee on Graduate Student Mentoring and Program Structure invited graduate

programs with high numbers of Doc2A students to attend a meeting to discuss reasons for relatively high number of Doc2As in each program and possible strategies to reduce and avoid Doc2A status. Attendees agreed that decoupling the exam and advancement was a good model. For example, a student could take an exam at the end of year 2 (or year 3). This exam could identify students who aren't making sufficient academic progress. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> year (or year 4) then, the student could begin research on their dissertation and submit a proposal to advance to candidacy at the end of year 3 (or year 4). In addition, the group discussed that it was problematic to have the Doc2A rule as a one-size-fits-all whereas programs have different normative times to degree. Any post-advancement rules should reflect the program's time to degree. An initiative in this regard is being discussed in the Coordinating Committee for Graduate Affairs (CCGA).

*WASC Program Learning Outcomes for Graduate Programs*

Graduate Council and the Subcommittee on Graduate Student Mentoring and Program Structure are working on effective and efficient ways to implement the Western Association of School and Colleges' (WASC) requirement for Program Learning Outcomes. The idea is to implement the requirement in an incremental manner, so that individual programs can decide at any given year which aspects of their programs to focus on for improvement. Please look forward to receiving a streamlined step-by-step process outline and models from a select set of graduate programs that are participating in the pilot program.

The Proposal to Establish a Ph.D. in Public Health has been approved by the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA).