Dear Colleagues:

These are easily recognized as remarkable times. Among the notable events attending the coronavirus pandemic, UC Irvine has moved to fully remote instruction for Spring 2020. This will continue through the Summer. Beyond that the campus will evaluate the evidence when we get it. The Academic Senate has been working closely with the administration in addressing the issues that have come up along the way. Since this is what I have been thinking about lately, I will use this space to discuss a few of these.

To begin, it has warmed my heart to see how the faculty, staff, and administration have come together to provide remote instruction. It demonstrates our strong commitment to teaching and the campus community. As I write, we are just starting the second week of Spring instruction. Given what could have gone wrong, we are, I believe, doing extraordinarily well keeping our heads above water.

Some issues have been easier than others. One that arose early on concerns the ownership of course content, including video recordings of lectures and other online course material. The short answer is that unless faculty members have used exceptional University resources to create course materials, they own the copyright to everything they create at the University of California. In this regard, the University has stipulated that the current transition to remote teaching does not constitute the use of exceptional resources. The upshot is that only the faculty member and anyone to whom that faculty member has granted permission may reproduce, distribute, or display (including digitally posting or uploading) the online course materials used for remote instruction. See DTEI’s Guidance for UCI Faculty in Light of Increased Online Instruction for further details.

Other issues have been more difficult to address—some of these will likely require us to reflect on how we think of instruction and assessment. As a salient example, proctoring examinations is difficult to do remotely in a way that does not violate basic principles of student privacy. By their nature proctoring systems require access to sensitive data. This might include identifying details for students, video recordings of students, explicit outcomes of assessments, or other student data that we should be reluctant to share with a third party. One upshot is that there is good reason for us to consider giving take-home exams or pursuing other strategies that do not require a proctoring service if at all possible. If a proctoring service is required, it is essential that we only use services for which the campus has a data privacy agreement. This list indicates what software has been approved for use at UC Irvine, and it will be updated as we go.
Another issue involves internet access. Some faculty have opted to upload their lectures to YuJa for asynchronous viewing. Others have chosen to use Zoom for real-time lectures. For those using Zoom, since our students will at least sometimes have internet connections that are so unstable as to be useless, one might consider recording one’s Zoom lectures then uploading them to YuJa for asynchronous viewing. The following are good places to start for information on how to put these online tools to work: Minimum Tools to Teach Remotely and Lessons Learned from Week One.

I will end with two things that have nothing to do with remote instruction. First, the Academic Planning Group (APG) will finish its work for the 2019-20 academic year this quarter. This will involve getting reports from the three 2019-20 APG task groups then sharing these recommendations with the Interim Provost and Chancellor. In brief, the three reports this year concern (1) self-supporting programs, (2) quarters vs. semesters, and (3) campus data-use policy. The Academic Senate will share with faculty anything notable that may result from the reports. Second, while it is unclear just how bad it will be, it is clear that budgetary constraints will be central to campus planning for the foreseeable future. The Academic Senate will work closely with the administration in these deliberations.

All best wishes,

Jeffrey A. Barrett
Chancellor’s Professor
Academic Senate Chair Elect

UPDATES TO SENATE BUSINESS DUE TO COVID-19

The Irvine Divisional Senate has transitioned to remote meetings for all of its Committees and Councils, as well as for Cabinet and Assembly. Chair James Steintrager has encouraged all Committee and Council Chairs to be in communication with their members and colleagues regarding appropriate changes to Senate business in order to practice social distancing and to keep members healthy. Chair Steintrager is also staying in close contact with campus administration to keep faculty apprised of the most current information on COVID-19. The Senate website has been updated with a section cataloguing correspondence from Senate leadership related to COVID-19. Senate staff are working remotely but remain available to serve faculty and the campus via email during regular business hours.

SYSTEMWIDE BUSINESS

Systemwide Issues/Updates

BOARS Recommendations

The Academic Council endorsed three BOARS letters recommending additional flexibility in freshman and transfer admissions requirements due to the COVID-19 health emergency. These recommendations include a temporary waiver of certain undergraduate admission requirements, temporary flexibility in UC transfer requirements, and advanced placement exam credit.
Irvine Review of Proposed Revisions to the APM, Bylaws, Regulations and Appendices

REVIEWED AT SENATE CABINET LEVEL:

- **Forwarded comments as part of the Systemwide review of University of California Research Information Management Systems**
  - Reviewed at Council level by CORCL

- **Forwarded comments as part of the Systemwide review of Presidential Policy on Copyright Ownership**
  - Reviewed at Council level by GC & CORCL

- **Forwarded comments as part of the Systemwide review of Proposed Revisions to APM 120, Emerita/Emeritus Titles**
  - Reviewed at Council level by CAP & CFW

- **Forwarded comments as part of the Systemwide review of Proposed Revisions to APM 240 & 246**
  - Reviewed at Council level by CAP & CFW

- **Forwarded comments as part of the Systemwide review of the Working Group on Comprehensive Access**

- **Forwarded comments as part of the Systemwide review of the BOARS recommendation to Eliminate the SAT/ACT Essay Requirement**
  - Reviewed at Council level by CEP & CUARS

- **Forwarded comments as part of the Systemwide review of the Standardized Testing Task Force Report**
  - Reviewed at Council level by CEP, CEI, & CUARS

IRVINE DIVISION BUSINESS

Divisional Issues/Updates

**Quarters vs. Semesters**

Members of the Cabinet have been asked to serve on an APG Task Group examining the advantages and disadvantages of a transition from quarters to semesters, or other hybrid models, at UCI. The pros and cons of such a transition were reviewed by CEP, CFW, CORCL, CTLSE, and GC, and their comments were forwarded to the Task Group for their review.
Public Posting of Council Agendas

Councils deliberated and sent comments forward to Cabinet about the potential of posting Council agendas and minutes publicly. While Councils did not find unanimity on the posting of minutes, most Councils have decided to post agendas publicly. Members of the Irvine Division can now view these on the Senate website.

Faculty Housing Discussion

Former Provost Enrique Lavernia, Vice Chancellor Ron Cortez, and Assistant Vice Chancellor Richard Demerjian met with the Cabinet to discuss the quickly evolving issue of faculty housing in University Hills. Assistant Vice Chancellor Demerjian led members through a presentation detailing housing demand and upcoming construction projects that would meet the need. Members discussed issues surrounding existing housing, upkeep, safety, ADA compliance, signage on walking paths, and bus service for University Hills.

Cabinet Meet and Greets

The Cabinet held meet and greet sessions with Vice Provost for Academic Planning Hal Stern and Vice Chancellor of Information Technology & Data Tom Andriola. Vice Provost Stern discussed changes to the membership of the Academic Planning Group and noted that the current membership may be too small and is considered a pilot program for this year. Vice Chancellor Andriola discussed his participation in an APG Task Group on UCI’s data use framework in response to the significant amount of digital data being produced on campus.

Review of Irvine Division Bylaws, Regulations and Appendices

- Approved the modifications to Bylaw 127, Scholarly Awards and Honors, Committee on (Cabinet – 1/21/20) (Assembly – 1/30/20)

Bylaw 127. Scholarly Awards and Honors, Committee on

The modifications to Bylaw 127 allow the Committee on Scholarly Awards and Honors (SHA) to, in consultation with the Senate Chair, modify award names and add new awards without needing to update its bylaws each time. The modifications also allow for the Vice Provost of Teaching and Learning to send a representative other than the Vice Provost themselves as an ex officio member to SHA meetings.

Endowed Chairs

ENDORSED BY SENATE CABINET:
(Reviewed at the Council level by CPB)

- Amendment to the Shri Parshvanath Chair in Jain Studies (Cabinet - 1/21/20)
- Re-designation of Robert Gumbiner Endowed Chair in Health Care Management from the Paul Merage School of Business to the School of Medicine (Cabinet - 1/21/20)
- Modification to the Leopold Chair in Ophthalmology (Cabinet - 1/21/20)
ACTIVITIES BY SENATE COUNCILS

Council on Academic Personnel (CAP)

**CAP and AP Collaboration**

The Council on Academic Personnel (CAP) has been meeting on a weekly basis to review personnel cases, and expects to continue those meetings virtually. CAP continues to work closely with the Office of Academic Personnel (AP) to communicate pertinent information about the review process to deans, chairs, faculty and academic personnel administrators, and to look for ways to make the review process less onerous. To address impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, CAP, Academic Senate leadership, and AP have worked together to develop new policies and guidance for future review processes. With the expansion of the collaboratively written AP Faculty Guidance website, CAP has streamlined its FAQs and will update them every summer. The first version of these new FAQ is now available.

Council on Equity and Inclusion (CEI)

**Review of the Equity Advisor Program**

During winter quarter, the Council on Equity and Inclusion (CEI) continued to gather information for its review of the Equity Advisor program. A subcommittee created a set of questions for equity advisors that addressed their history and experience as an equity advisor, their ideas for improving the effectiveness of the program, and their thoughts on framing the equity advisor program in relation to campus and systemwide goals of promoting inclusion and increasing faculty diversity. Members then conducted informal interviews with current and former equity advisors in their schools. At its final meeting this quarter, the Council will welcome several school personnel directors for a conversation about their perspectives on working with equity advisors during faculty recruitments and throughout the year. The Council expects to begin drafting its report and recommendations at the start of spring quarter, for submission to the Senate Cabinet by the end of the academic year.

Other winter quarter Council activities included review of a proposed student course feedback form at the campus level, review of a proposed new Presidential policy on gender recognition and lived name, and review of the report of the systemwide Standardized Testing Task Force.
Council on Educational Policy (CEP)

Reviewed/Approved by CEP

During winter 2020, the Council on Educational Policy (CEP) unanimously approved a new minor in Integrative Health and approximately 25 proposals to modify minors and majors from all of the UCI Schools with undergraduate programs. CEP also voted to approve the proposal for the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. CEP believes that elevating the Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences to school status will offer a measure of increased graduate opportunities in the new Pharm.D. program to graduates of the B.S. degree. In addition, CEP has provided consultation to Cabinet on the new course feedback form, and the Council is in the process of reviewing new criteria for approval of Independent Study 199 courses.

Review of Standardized Testing

CEP voted in favor of supporting the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) recommendation to eliminate the SAT/ACT essay requirement for undergraduate admission. CEP concurs with the BOARS finding that writing samples produced within a time-limited single sitting examination cannot fully reflect a student’s full range of writing skills, which involve reading, discussion, composition, reflection and revision. CEP also agrees with BOARS’s observation that the SAT/ACT essay is an unnecessary cost and time burden on California students, and that the essay requirement can, by its mere existence, be perceived as a barrier to access to UC for all students, but especially students from disadvantaged backgrounds. However, CEP was generally not supportive of the report’s recommendation to take 10 years to phase out SAT/ACT criteria for UC admissions, given the number of studies that have shown these tests significantly discriminate against underrepresented minorities and first generation and low-income students.

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

Advantages and Disadvantages of Quarters versus Semesters

The Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom (CFW) discussed the advantages and disadvantages of a quarter-based versus a semester-based academic calendar (holding aside, for now, the potential costs of transition), which was initiated by a task group convened by the Academic Planning Group (APG). Members raised the following comments and concerns: 1) Many of the task group’s arguments lack underlying evidence; 2) Members strongly recommend an open comment period and systematic polling of the faculty, perhaps extending to a formal vote; 3) Impacts on campus demographic and life diversity and on underserved campus populations should be more explicitly considered; 4) Notwithstanding the charge of the task group as it is understood—to study advantages and disadvantages without regard to cost—consideration of cost and implementation should be integral from the start.

Institutional Reference Check Policy Proposal

CFW reviewed the proposed Institutional Reference Check Policy. The proposed new policy will be implemented as a pilot program for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 hiring years to allow Academic Personnel to conduct reference checks on final candidates for Senate academic appointments to the Professor and Professor of Teaching series, at all ranks—assistant, associate, full, and above scale. Pilot programs have already been implemented at UC Davis and UC San Diego. The Council supports this pilot program, but requested clarification on several aspects of its implementation.
Council on Planning and Budget (CPB)

Proposal to Establish the UCI School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

CPB discussed the proposal to establish the UCI School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The proposal responded to the Council’s pre-proposal feedback on space considerations, organizational structure, and financial plans for sustainability. CPB expressed continued reservations about the proposal’s plan for rapid growth. Discussion is ongoing.

Upcoming Issues

CPB will discuss proposed reconstitution and establishment of departments in the Program in Public Health. These include a transfer and name change of the Department of Epidemiology; creation of two new departments, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health and Department of Health, Society and Behavior; and changes to the Department of Population Health and Disease Prevention as a result of these actions.

Degree Programs Under Review

- Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)

Endowed Chairs

- Howard Schneiderman Endowed Chair in the School of Biological Sciences
- Jain Chair Amendment in the School of Humanities
- Irving H. Leopold Chair in Ophthalmology in the School of Medicine
- Archstone Foundation Endowed Chair in Geriatric Healthcare
- Ferdowsi Presidential Chair in Zoroastrian Studies
Council on Research, Computing, and Libraries (CORCL)

COVID-19

The Council on Research, Computing, and Libraries (CORCL) advised the Office of Research on issues related to the COVID-19 outbreak including plans for the research ramp down. CORCL also received an update on the research expertise and capacity of UCI labs conducting COVID-19 related research.

Quarters vs. Semesters

The Academic Planning Group (APG) convened a task group to conduct an analysis of a possible UCI transition from the current quarter system to a semester system. CORCL commented on an initial list of the advantages and disadvantages of the two systems, and submitted suggestions for additional topics for the task group to consider.

Review of the Research Information Management Systems (RIMS) Report

CORCL reviewed the system-wide report on the use of research information management systems in faculty analytics. Central report findings include possible misuse of data analytics for faculty advancement, setting strategic priorities, and resource allocation, issues of transparency and portability, and an encroachment of commercial third party systems into the core business of the university. The council endorsed the report’s recommendations to adopt strategies to mitigate potential risks posed by RIMS and to leverage the potential benefits of improved efficiencies and services.

Reviews for ORU and Renewal of Campus Center

CORCL considered the five-year reviews for the Newkirk Center for Science and Society and the Institute for Immunology (IFI). The Council supported renewal for the Newkirk Center and recommended a provisional renewal for the IFI with guidance on improvement.

Upcoming

CORCL will discuss several department and degree program actions from the Program in Public Health related to the development of the School of Population/Public Health.

Council on Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience (CTLSE)

COVID-19

The Council on Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience (CTLSE) would like to recognize the current unprecedented and challenging situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council will continue to serve as a Senate conduit on Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience. In particular, the Council will respond to the critical needs of students and faculty as the dynamics of teaching and learning at UCI are dramatically altered for Spring Quarter 2020.
**International Undergraduate Preparation Program (IUPP)**

CTLSE reviewed the International Undergraduate Preparation Program (IUPP) and was presented with additional information from the Division of Continuing Education (DCE). In June 2019, the Council submitted a memo to the Senate Chair that included concerns regarding the program’s recruitment practices and the process of reserving spaces for IUPP students in certain courses. CTLSE reviewed DCE’s responses and had the following concerns: 1) Members expressed discomfort with the practice of using commissioned agents to recruit students for the program, and recommended that DCE or UCI as a whole should have more insight into and oversight of this process; 2) The Council is keenly interested in the program’s functions, specifically whether the recruitment agents offer realistic expectations of the program to prospective students; 3) Members questioned whether there was or would be a long-range plan to diversify the program beyond its current emphasis on students from China. The Senate has since learned that the IUPP would be phased out over the next year or so.

**English Proficiency Certification for International Teaching Assistants**

CTLSE reviewed the proposed English Proficiency Certification for International Teaching Assistants/Associates policy. Members applauded the proposed policy change that would test all non-U.S. citizens and no longer waive testing for residents of particular countries. CTLSE members also noted that U.S. citizenship does not necessarily imply that a person has English proficiency at the standard required to be a successful TA. It is the council’s general opinion that this policy should not be linked to citizenship in any way, but understand that the potential ramifications of not exempting those with U.S. citizenship might prove challenging. Overall, the Council had no real concerns with the proposed revisions, and would like to encourage all departments to appropriately screen Teaching Assistants/Associates to have English proficiency for the quality teaching of undergraduates.

**Advantages and Disadvantages of Quarters versus Semesters**

CTLSE reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of quarters versus semesters. Members expressed concern about the lack of empirical results in exploring a quarter system versus a semester system. Members questioned what transition process may be set in place for current students and how to provide for minimal disruption to students and faculty. While a semester system may provide advantages such as an alignment with California community colleges and the California State University systems, members believed that the transition to a semester system would not, ultimately, be advantageous to students and faculty. They are concerned that it would lead to increased costs for students and negatively impact time to degree, especially for transfer students.

**Upcoming**

In upcoming meetings, CTLSE will discuss Financial Services and Financial Aid.

**Graduate Council (GC)**

**Graduate Education**

IR 360 and SR 620. Credit by Examination. Graduate Council voted to approve that credit by examination not be accepted because the credit by examination option is not normally used by graduate students due to the nature of graduate degree requirements. Graduate level courses cannot be completed through the credit by examination option. Exceptions will be made for the Masters Entry Program in Nursing (MEPN) in the Sue and Bill Gross School of Nursing. The MEPN is required by the Board of Registered Nursing to have a policy on credit by examination in place to comply with licensure requirements.
IR 825 and SR 726. Transfer and Waiver Policies. Credit obtained for work indicating superior scholarship at institutions other than UC may be accepted for partial fulfillment of the minimum unit or course requirement for master’s degrees. Graduate Council clarified the Transfer and Waiver Policies for courses, specifically regarding how the policies apply to doctoral students earning a master’s en route. Revisions to the Graduate Policies and Procedures and the UCI General Catalogue have been made to reflect the current interpretation.

SSGPDP Students to Serve as TAs. A growing number of schools are facing a shortage of qualified doctoral students to serve as TAs. At the same time, the number of SSGPDPs has significantly increased, providing an untapped pool of students who may be qualified to serve as TAs. As a possible way to mitigate the issue, Graduate Council recommends that SSGPDP students serve as TAs under strict conditions and caveats. Its recommendations are being considered by relevant councils.

Electronic Signatures for PhD Form II “Report on Final Examination for the PhD Degree”. Graduate Council approved the acceptance of electronic signatures for the PhD Form II to allow for more flexibility. Form II serves as the dissertation signature page. The change applies to MFA degrees and Master’s degrees as well.

GRE Requirement Removal. Graduate Council voted to allow for the removal of the GRE from the minimum graduate application requirements as requested by individual graduate programs. Programs can select to opt in to have the GRE requirement removed or can select to keep their GRE requirements as is. This change is in response to the growing trend of removing the GRE requirement at other UC campuses and institutions. Doing so will allow UCI programs to remain competitive.

Independent Study Courses. For independent study courses at the graduate level, it does not appear that a campuswide requirement to provide a written proposal/syllabus/statement of work is necessary. The requirement is best handled on a unit-by-unit basis as in the current practice.

UCI Policies

Interim UCI Policy on Emotional Support Animals in Housing. Graduate Council found the Policy adequate overall. However, the Policy seems to give too much weight to the student requesting an emotional support animal relative to the rights of other students and the potentially serious health effects on other students.

Quarters vs Semesters. Graduate Council found the list of advantages and disadvantages presented by the APG Task Group on Quarters vs. Semesters exhaustive overall and noted that some points can use specifications. The Council encourages that the issues presented be evidence-based for certain claims.

Making Agendas and Minutes Public. As Graduate Council’s purview covers all academic matters related to graduate education, its meetings focus mainly on the review of graduate degree programs and graduate policies. Given the sensitivity of the review, it is important to keep the discussion of those items private as comments could be misconstrued when taken out of context. The Council concurs on making agendas public and if necessary, may provide annotated agendas listing the outcomes of agenda items to serve as public minutes.

English Proficiency Certification for International Teaching Assistants/Associates. The general policy is well laid out and greatly cuts through the bureaucratic clutter of the previous policies. Graduate Council provided its recommendations for review by the Cabinet.
Implementation of Student Course Feedback Form. Graduate Council expresses no strong preference for the Campuswide Teaching Evaluation Form (old form) vs. the Student Course Feedback Form (new form). The removal of some of the questions and the compression of scale are problematic for supporting the new form. Moreover, the Council is not convinced that the new form, in its design and assessment, has examined the existing research on addressing the long-standing issues of bias. Furthermore, the pilot program does not make a compelling argument for making its use mandatory, displacing the customized surveys used by some schools. As a result, Graduate Council does not support mandating the campuswide implementation of the new form.

**Systemwide Policies**

Presidential Policy on Gender Recognition and Lived Name. The Policy is largely positive and timely in recognizing a nonbinary option for students and employees. It is unclear why the Policy should not extend to academic documents such as transcripts, diplomas or dissertation title pages, assuming that it is permitted by law.

**New School**
- School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

**New Graduate Degree Program**
- Addition of MS in Medical Science to Doctor of Medicine
- Doctor of Pharmacy

**Suspension of Admissions**
- Terminal MA in Medicine, Science and Technology Studies

**Discontinuance of Graduate Degree Programs**
- Healthcare Executive MBA

**SSGPDP Year Three Review**
- Master of Human-Computer Interaction and Design
- Master of Legal and Forensic Psychology

**Academic Program Review**
- School of Social Sciences

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**Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools (CUARS)**

**Recent Reviews**

The Council recently conducted reviews of the BOARS recommendation to eliminate the essay portion of the ACT/SAT for admissions as well as the Standardized Testing Task Force report. Regarding the former, the Council agreed with the BOARS recommendation as the essay is not used at any point during the admissions process; eliminating it saves students money, time and stress. Regarding the Standardized Testing Task Force report, the Council expressed concern over access to testing for students across the state and recommended to BOARS and to Cabinet that the UC system consider providing free tests for all California students, perhaps through their local high schools. Members also noted that while the evidence shows the test is predictive of success, there is also evidence of the tests being discriminatory.
Admissions Cycle Update

The Council heard a presentation from Director of Admissions Dale Leaman about the use of SLATE and the current admissions cycle. Members discussed concerns about how admissions and enrollment numbers are correlated when high achieving students are denied admission to some majors. Director Leaman could not say that the past practice of not offering admission to top students will change, but he would provide the Council with yield numbers. He also stated that selection sets are being done in a more granular way this year that can provide schools with the impacts of various admissions criterion. Director Leaman also shared initial yield predictions for the offers being made through the Campuswide Honors Collegium.

Upcoming

The Council plans to deliberate approval of adjusting the scoring scale for application readers from 1-3 back to its previous scale of 1-5. Additionally, the Council will be hearing from Director Leaman about how the Office of Admissions is preparing for COVID-19 issues in its next round of admissions.

SENATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

2020 Distinguished Faculty Awards – Open for Nominations

The UCI Academic Senate’s Committee on Scholarly Honors and Awards (SH&A) invites you to nominate colleagues for the Distinguished Faculty Awards. More information about the awards can be found on the Call for Nominations and at the Academic Senate Distinguished Faculty Awards webpage.

The deadline for nominations has been extended to Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 11:59pm PST. Nominations should be submitted at: https://dms.senate.uci.edu/~awards/.

Divisional Feedback for Stewardship Review of Chancellor Gillman

The Academic Senate will participate in the President’s periodic review of the campuses by providing the President with a faculty review of the Chancellor’s leadership. All Division members are invited to submit comments assessing Chancellor Gillman’s leadership. As part of the review process, the Chancellor has prepared a report describing his accomplishments since his appointment, an assessment of the current state of the campus, and aspirations for the next five years.

Submit your feedback by Friday, April 17, 2020 at 5:00pm PST, by logging in at https://dms.senate.uci.edu/~ballots. Comments are anonymous and will be shared with the Ad Hoc Review Committee charged with coordinating the review.

The UCI Academic Senate Newsletter is published quarterly during the academic year by the UCI Academic Senate to inform UCI faculty about the activities of the Senate. Your comments are welcome: senate@uci.edu

Jeffrey Barrett, 2019-2020 Chair Elect
Christine Aguilar, Editor

For an archive of Senate Newsletters please visit: http://senate.uci.edu/newsletters/