

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Faculty Submitted Questions for the Silicon Valley Discussion

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

To promote inclusiveness and participation from across the divisions and ranks, senators have been offered the opportunity to forward questions and comments in advance of the April 22 Senate meeting. These are the questions that we have received to date (list will be updated daily):

1. Would the new UARC contract provide the same benefits to the home campus that the old UARC contract provided?
2. Has the new UARC contract been restructured? If so, with what consequences for the home campus?
3. How much money has been spent in the process of preparing the campus's proposal for the new UARC contract?
4. Have consultants been hired to advise the University about its new UARC proposal? If so, how much have those consultants cost the campus, and where have the funds to pay them come from?
5. How many of the FTE dedicated to the Silicon Valley initiative will be designated for administrative and staff positions?
6. How often would faculty FTE in Silicon Valley be obligated to teach undergraduates on the home campus?
7. Why is it that there always seems to be funding for consultants and new projects when effort and funding seems to be lacking for providing our students courses for a basic liberal arts education outside their majors.
8. Liberal arts are prominent in SV's tech/industry sectors but UCSC's SV initiative focuses on tech narrowly defined. Why are UCSC's liberal arts and interdisciplinary strengths missing from the SV initiative? How could the initiative be more effectively integrated with existing strengths in/across existing depts, rather than as a separate entity?
9. Recent events have drawn national attention to hostile working conditions for women and minorities in Silicon Valley. Has there been any discussion of this issue in the planning/consultation process and, if so, what has the response been?

10. Please explain clearly and concisely what benefits -- in terms of students served, faculty development, and resource management -- will accrue to the UCSC campus as a result of the Silicon Valley initiative.
11. Is there a report available that documents the viability of a Silicon Valley campus, particularly in an area that is dominated by Stanford? Is there a documented market in SV for UCSC?
12. Has anyone studied the reasons why the Stanford/UCB joint medical school venture was abandoned? If so the insanity of this proposal might become apparent.
13. UCSC lacks adequate classroom space. Will funding the Silicon Valley initiative impact our ability to build new classrooms on the home campus?
14. Several of our undergraduate programs have extremely high student faculty ratios, impacting student advising, student-faculty interactions, class sizes and student research opportunities. Does the administration view this as acceptable? How can these issues be addressed if Silicon Valley is funded?
15. I think that this diversion of FTE is a terrible idea, and it will degrade the quality of many programs at UCSC as it chases money in Silicon Valley. So my question is: has the train left the station?! What will it take to stop this, and invest the FTE at our current campus?
16. As I understand, we received 12 positions from a "re-benching" effort between campuses. This money is intended for us to increase our grad student population to UC levels. Grad students in UC means PhD students. So isn't funding Master's students (in the Valley) a misuse of these funds?
17. When I teach PhD students, then the university, the students and myself all benefit from our research. So the goals of the university and myself are aligned. When I teach Master's in the Valley, I help the university make money but my position as a professor is demoted to a lecturer.
18. Why are 4 of the 12 positions converted to admin positions? We already have administrative support set up on the main campus. Re-benching money for admin positions ??? Also Valley related fields do not require the usual admin support.
19. What jurisdiction does the Faculty Senate have in the matter of the Silicon Valley Initiative?
20. Are the Chancellor and Executive Vice Chancellor prepared to move forward with the Silicon Valley Initiative without robust support from the Faculty Senate, even if the Senate's support is not required?

21. Would a vote of no confidence in the Silicon Valley initiative by a majority of Faculty Senators prevent the Chancellor and Executive Vice Chancellor from moving forward with this project?
22. The Silicon Valley initiative clearly favors the divisions that already enjoy the highest faculty salaries, modern facilities, and a majority of senior leadership positions in the administration. What benefits will accrue from the initiative to under-valued and under-resourced divisions such as Arts, Humanities, and Undergraduate Education?
23. When addressing the impact of the SV campus expansion, please report the planned number of Permanent Ladder FTE, by UCSC department, for the 2017-2018 academic year.
24. For departments listed as proposal sponsors, have faculty been given an opportunity to vote for or against each proposal? If so, what share of faculty within each department support their respective proposal(s)? If not, does the university plan to evaluate faculty support within departments before moving forward with any proposals?
25. Are the 14 FTE that the Chancellor and EVC have promised to set aside for the Silicon Valley Initiative actually available, or are they already spoken for under the terms of the new UARC contract?
26. If the Silicon Valley Initiative does not move forward, will the Chancellor and EVC return the 14 FTE that they have set aside for the project to the home campus?
27. The initiative implicitly assumes a continuing boom in tech industry employment and profits. Has there been consideration of how it would fare in a time of contraction, when placements are drastically reduced?
28. How has resiliency been built into the initiative? Might it involve non-tech programs that could better meet the Valley's educational needs in non-boom periods?
29. Assuming that the Silicon Valley Initiative goes forward, how will we know whether it is succeeding or failing? What criteria will be used to assess the Initiative, and at what intervals will it be assessed? What contingency plans are in place to wind down operations in Silicon Valley should the Initiative fail?