

May 6, 2010

Lori Kletzer, Chair
Academic Senate

Re: Commission on the Future Recommendations

Dear Lori:

The Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP) has reviewed the first-round recommendations from the Working Groups of the Commission on the Future. There are a number of issues of potential relevance to academic personnel. We comment briefly on those concerns below.

Overall Senate Consultation:

One overall concern expressed by CAP members was the importance that the principle of Senate consultation be followed throughout the Commission's process. We have been told that this set of recommendations is very preliminary, and yet we are concerned that the timing for the second round of recommendations is uncomfortably close to the review of those recommendations by the Regents. We hope you will make it clear to the Commission that time for Senate consultation will be needed for the final recommendations.

Education and Curriculum – Recommendation 1

This recommendation is to “manage educational resources more effectively and efficiently” including in particular, in part 3, “making more effective use of faculty resources.” This recommendation is very vague and could be interpreted to be a call to increase faculty workloads. CAP members would want to know much more about how such changes in the use of faculty resources would be made, and would want to be sure that the current policies regarding faculty workload continue to be followed.

Funding Strategies – Recommendation 8

The recommendation to “Examine alternate faculty compensation plans” is another vague recommendation that is likely to have many unforeseen implications. CAP is concerned with equity across divisions with regard to advancement, and it is not clear to us how such changes in compensation plans might impact the personnel process. We request thorough consultation on any such plans.

We look forward to continued consultation with the Working Groups and the Commission as they move forward in their work.

Sincerely,

lsl

Maureen Callanan, Chair
Committee on Academic Personnel

cc: Senate Committees