

October 1, 2002

MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

Dear Colleagues,

Let me welcome you back for the beginning of a new and potentially exciting academic year at UCSC.

I would like to encourage each of you to attend the first meeting of the Santa Cruz Division of the Academic Senate, which is scheduled at 2:30 PM on October 16, 2002 at the UCSC Recital Hall. The annual reports of the Senate committees contain several issues which will continue to be actively considered during the current year, and these reports should provide a good opportunity to familiarize yourselves with these issues.

Also on the agenda, under unfinished business from the last meeting of the Division, is legislation which, if enacted, would fundamentally change the way that the Committee on Committees (CoC) is chosen. The CoC is the only elected body within the Santa Cruz Division, and it appoints members to all Senate committees and consults on all faculty appointments to administrative committees.

These are very interesting times for this campus. We now reaching the conclusion of a two-year-long academic planning process. The campus faces the immediate challenge of increasing its enrollment of graduate students to 15% of the student population while dealing with burgeoning undergraduate enrollments and while retaining our commitment to outstanding undergraduate instruction. During the year, the Senate, led by the Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid, will institute a comprehensive review plan for admissions. Meanwhile, the systemwide Academic Senate will be determining the new UC admissions requirements in light of our successful efforts last year to change the character of the SAT I exam. All of this is occurring while the state and the University face a budget crisis of unusual intensity. Many of these issues will be discussed by Chancellor Greenwood, Campus Provost Simpson, and me, as well as in oral reports by several Senate committees.

After the meeting, Chancellor Greenwood and I hope that all faculty and their guests will attend the dinner at University House. This will be a fine opportunity to become reacquainted with old friends and to meet our new faculty colleagues. I look forward to seeing you there.

Cordially,

George Blumenthal
Chair, Santa Cruz Division of the Academic Senate