

## **Report of the Representative to the Assembly of the Academic Senate Winter Quarter 2003**

The Assembly met on March 12, 2003, at the Clark Kerr Campus, UCB. The Santa Cruz Division was represented by Chair Blumenthal, Vice Chair Galloway, Mark Traugott (Chair, University Committee on Faculty Welfare), and John Lynch (UCSC Representative). Senators interested in further details about aspects of the meeting are invited to confer with any of the above. The complete agenda and much material relevant to what went on at the March meeting is posted on the Assembly's webpages: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/assembly/> For Senators interested in following the work of the Systemwide Academic Senate on issues, check the summaries in the bi-monthly newsletter, "The Senate Source": <http://www/universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/>

If anyone would like to have input on any of the issues now actively being addressed, the relevant links and email addresses of ad hoc committee chairs are provided.

There were two action items on the March agenda:

1. George Blumenthal of the Santa Cruz Division was nominated and elected by acclamation to serve as Vice Chair of the Assembly for 2003-04. Professor Blumenthal will serve as Assembly Chair in 2004-05, succeeding Professor Lawrence Pitts of the UCSF campus, Chair for 2003-04.
2. The proposed Campus Regents Standing Orders for the UC Merced campus were discussed and unanimously approved. UC Merced's Academic Structure is characterized as "Three Academic Schools and a Division of Graduate Studies under the Curricular Authority of a Single Faculty." The term "Schools" was chosen for the three units (Engineering/ Natural Sciences/ Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts) as a naming strategy to generate major donor interest. The campus will grow by college units, and all faculty and students will belong to a college within the University. For further details about UC Merced, which will be launched 2004-05; see the Assembly webpages on the March meeting and "President Atkinson's Remarks, #15."

The morning session was almost entirely devoted to scripted and unscripted remarks by President Richard Atkinson on 37 administrative issues, #1 being the University budget situation. The President's very informative scripted remarks, with illuminating distillations of what is at issue on 37 topics, is available for downloading in PDF format from the Assembly webpages.

The content of Course Descriptions is one important policy issue that is being actively studied. As a result of highly publicized concerns about an English R 1-A course offered on the UCB campus in the Fall of 2002, President Atkinson has asked the Senate to review the current norms for faculty descriptions of courses. In addition, President Atkinson has asked Law Professor Robert Post (a member of the Senate's Course Description Task Force) to review the University's statement on Academic Freedom and to offer advice on updating that statement to provide more valuable guidance on issues of academic freedom and academic responsibility, especially for the age of the Internet.

The afternoon session was devoted to reports of Task Forces on various issues currently being addressed by the Senate. The report of greatest interest and controversy among faculty is probably the proposed revision of the Faculty Code of Conduct (APM 015) to incorporate a policy governing Faculty-Student Relationships. In her cover letter, Chair Binion of the Academic Council notes that “there is significant interest in the Board of Regents in our developing such a policy,” and the fear is that if the Senate does not regulate itself with explicit policy in this area, others will force regulation upon us, most likely in the form of “a blanket restriction” along the lines of the policy adopted by William and Mary College. The suggested amendments to APM 015 are available in the meeting webpages as a PDF file for download, and the new language suggested is highlighted with underscoring. “If adopted by the UC administration and the UC Board of Regents,” the new policy “would make it a violation of the Faculty Code of Conduct for a faculty member to engage in a romantic or sexual relationship with a student for whom he or she has academic responsibility or should expect to have such responsibility.” The meeting webpages include many links to the policies that have been adopted at other Universities. Comments on the proposed amendments to the UC Faculty Code of Conduct should be addressed to [gayle.binion@ucop.edu](mailto:gayle.binion@ucop.edu).

For lack of time, the final item on the agenda—a report by Mark Traugott as Chair of the University Committee on Faculty Welfare—was postponed to the next Assembly Meeting, which will take place at UCLA on May 28. The UCFW report will include discussion of Health Care Plans, Phased Retirement, and Parking. A document entitled “Parking Policy Principles” (approved by UCFW in June 2002) is available for inspection in the March meeting webpages.

Respectfully Submitted;

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ASSEMBLY  
John Lynch

April 25, 2003