

November 9, 2005

MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

Dear Colleagues,

The 2005-06 academic year has already proven to be eventful at both a local and a system-wide level. Locally, we have now invested Denice D. Denton as our new chancellor. The events surrounding the investiture have been widely acclaimed as a great success, and in my opinion rightly so. The annual scholarship dinner brought in record sums. The symposia on diversity and the lecture from President Jackson of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute have provided food for thought.

Just as our campus greeted the formal investiture of our new chancellor, the Office of the President (OP) of the University announced a major change in the leadership at OP. Less than a week after announcing the resignation of our former chancellor, M.R.C. Greenwood, OP released the Statement of Ethical Values and Standards of Ethical Conduct. We in the Santa Cruz Division are not unique in affirming the importance of honesty, integrity, and openness as the essential underpinnings of any vibrant academic enterprise.

Nor are we unique among the UC Divisions in facing some persisting challenges. The recruitment and retention of excellent faculty, and the maintaining of high morale, necessitate that we find workable solutions to the crisis in housing. We are alarmed that the median house price is more than 10 times the starting salary of a new faculty member, here and for other UC campuses. Especially daunting are issues concerning faculty of color and women faculty. Resources allocated to improving the quality of life for faculty – by increases in compensation and by making housing and child care affordable and accessible – are resources that cannot be spent on other, worthwhile priorities like graduate support. Throughout the UC system, and here in Santa Cruz, the Senate has the option and the responsibility of working with the administration, although not always in perfect harmony, to help solve the problems that arise when resources are scarce.

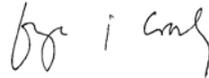
In some ways, UC Santa Cruz is going through an unusual transition period. The administration here has entered the phase of public comment on its Environmental Impact Report, as part of the Long Range Development Plan. While plans for the Santa Cruz campus are being scrutinized, it is important to note that some of the growth of programs is occurring distally. Increasingly, programs are being offered at the Silicon Valley Center. Visions of a possible School of Management in Silicon Valley are becoming increasingly focused. Meanwhile, as a consequence of last year's review of UCSC by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and with promises of some resources from the administration, the Senate has opened the process of dreaming and scheming about other possible professional schools and programs.

The current emphasis on graduate and professional education at UCSC mirrors our continuing devotion to our undergraduates. The Senate is eager to gain an understanding of our high attrition rates and to transform understanding into corrective action. We also continue to be vigilant about the quality of our undergraduate curricula, with possible special attention being granted to general education.

As we work hard on the questions that face us, we are bound to make some mistakes. Tempers may, on occasion, be short. Yet, I am confident that the Senate has its house very well in order. Given how well the Senate has been functioning, it now seems appropriate to regularize Senate relations with other bodies at UCSC and at other parts of UC. Smooth coordination within the Senate and also between the Senate and other entities at UCSC is on my agenda as chair.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Faye J. Crosby".

Faye J. Crosby, Chair  
Academic Senate  
Santa Cruz Division