

November 1, 2007

MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to what promises to be a productive and challenging year for the Senate! Our first Senate meeting of the academic year will occur on Friday, November 9, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. in Colleges 9 and 10 Multipurpose Room. [Click here to see Agenda](#). There are, as always, a number of reasons that you should attend. It will be the first time that George Blumenthal will address the Senate as our permanent Chancellor; new faculty will be introduced; annual reports from last year's hard-working Senate committees will be presented; and legislation which would produce campus-wide Dean's list and graduation Honors will be considered.

There are a lot of issues confronting the Senate and campus this year and down the line. In no particular order, these include the possibility of establishing one or more professional schools, a revision of our General Education requirements, consideration of an Honors Program by the campus, the litigated Long-Range Development Plan and the implications of its legal status, and the difficulties of University Extension -- for which a report, as requested by the Senate at its Spring 2007 meeting, is included in the CALL. And, the long-standing triumvirate of faculty welfare issues, Housing, Salaries and Child-Care, remain in their permanent place on the Senate's docket, with some progress to report on the first two fronts over the last year.

From a broader perspective, we are certainly in interesting times at UCSC. A distinguished senior colleague of mine always describes his feelings at the installation of a new Chancellor as "a time of irrational optimism." Such feelings have perhaps never been stronger than at the present. As you all know, our campus has undergone pervasive and recurrent administrative turnover over the last half-decade, and these changes in leadership have impacted the University's external face in areas that span from our interactions with our community, to our campus' sway with the UC Office of the President and the Regents, to our relations with alumni and donors. The internal manifestations of this turnover are (in some instances) more difficult to identify, but I do not think that we can pretend that these changes have not had a serious effect on the morale of the campus. On the positive side, although detailed administrative agendas have come and gone, some key themes have persisted throughout the turmoil. These include the critical importance of an excellent faculty, staff and student body, the value of a diverse campus environment, and the major role that UCSC plays in the region, the state, academia as a whole, and within our local community. Many of us hope that we have now reached a period of administrative stability, and with such stability comes the prospect of new campus initiatives and development. This brings me to a key point: with a proactive and stable administration, exciting times may be ahead—and, as the stewards of our academic mission, it is incumbent on the Senate to play a principal role in a more proactive UCSC, both as an initiator and facilitator of new academic enterprises, and as an ally, an advisor, or (when we think things are amiss) the loyal opposition to the Administration.

We look forward to seeing you at the Senate meeting, and the following **reception in the Bhojwani Dining Room**, at the University Center, to welcome your new colleagues and Chancellor, and to participate in the discussion of both the opportunities and issues presented by this new academic year and – perhaps- a new era at UCSC.

Sincerely,



Quentin Williams, Chair
Academic Senate
Santa Cruz Division