

May 22, 2008  
MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

Dear Colleagues,

The spring quarter Academic Senate meeting will be Friday, May 30th at 2:30 p.m. in the Colleges 9 and 10 Multipurpose Room. The Meeting Call can be found [HERE](#). As always, this quarter has been interesting at UCSC, with notable attention being paid in some campus circles to normally arcane governmental events like the May revise of the Governor's Budget. During times of budgetary turmoil, the tenor of many campus discussions tends naturally to shift towards financially or business oriented terminologies. Like: "Does this new enterprise have resource neutrality?" When confronted by such outbreaks of business-ese, I find that it is always worth recalling that, although we bill and account centrally, *academic programs are the largest revenue generator* for the campus, from students, the state (through the medium of student enrollment), and external sources. Perhaps this is an obvious statement, but there are times when it seems to be forgotten or taken for granted. Not only are the conveyance and creation of knowledge our institutional missions, but they also provide the economic engine of our institution -- something that absolutely needs to be kept in mind in the inevitable "university-from-a-business-viewpoint" discussions.

In this context, we are fortunate to have on the docket of our meeting a discussion item that is largely pedagogic (although I suppose it could also be phrased as "improving the efficiency of our product delivery"): a discussion of proposed General Education reforms from our Committee on Educational Policy. CEP wants to be as responsive to faculty input as possible in the proposals that they plan to bring to the Fall, 2008 meeting for a Senate vote, and the discussion at the Senate meeting will provide an additional forum for such input. So, why should you come to this meeting? Assuredly, every faculty member will be impacted in a range of ways by major revisions to our General Education requirements and offerings—and, despite our institution's educational vibrancy, such revisions have not occurred for about a quarter-century. Therefore, a successfully designed and implemented set of revisions requires as much faculty thought, discussion and deliberation as possible. Also, the meeting will have a presentation on faculty salaries, and in particular on how our salaries at UCSC relate to those at other UC's—a topic of considerable interest from both a local perspective and for understanding the degree to which "tiering" of UC campuses with respect to faculty salaries has (perhaps unintentionally) occurred.

Finally, the meeting will be followed by a RECEPTION in the Bhojwani Room of the University Center. So, your attendance at this meeting, beyond quite possibly being good for your academic soul, will have a tangible reward attached.

Sincerely,



Quentin Williams, Chair  
Academic Senate  
Santa Cruz Division