

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Santa Cruz Division
November 15, 2013

Meeting

A regular meeting of the Santa Cruz Division of the Academic Senate was held Friday, November 15 at the Colleges 9 & 10 Multipurpose Room. With Parliamentarian Donald Potts present, Chair Joe Konopelski called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

1. Approval of Draft Minutes

The meeting minutes of May 29, 2013 were approved by voice vote.

2. Announcements

a. Chair Konopelski

Senate Chair Joseph Konopelski began his announcements with an update about faculty hiring. New to the Senate and campus are 20 assistant professors, as well as a few senior colleagues. Additionally, the Academic Senate Office is now fully staffed with the addition of Suzanne Millward as Assistant to the Director.

UCSC offered its first Coursera courses over the summer, and numerous proposals were received by the Office of the President's Innovative Learning Technology Initiative (ILTI). Several were accepted, including a joint proposal from our own UCSC faculty, working together with faculty at UCSD and UCD. As the UC moves into this new era of teaching, the Senate is and will remain intimately involved on both the campus and systemwide level to assure that all courses, including those taught online, maintain UC quality.

The UCSC campus submitted a Long Range Enrollment Plan (LREP) to UCOP on July 1, 2013. Chair Konopelski explained that the policy implications of these plans—specifically as they relate to rebenching and the funding streams initiative—will take most, if not all, of the academic year to work out.

The Chair also gave an update concerning rebenching: during the 2012-13 academic year, UCSC received about 50 percent of the target increase to our base budget that was necessary under the rebenching methodology. For 2013-14, however, UCOP provided the missing 50 percent from last year's budget, as well as the full funding for the 2013-14 academic year. This commitment to rebenching, which was not guaranteed, is exciting as it allows certain aspirations of the LREP—such as growth in graduate enrollments, summer session, and non-resident students—to be put into sharper focus. In relation to these efforts, with Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies (VPDGS) Tyrus Miller, the Senate Executive Committee is working to develop a strong strategic plan for graduate growth. Additionally, a Summer Session Strategy Group chaired by Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education (VPDUE) Richard Hughey and Summer Session Director Monica Parikh was formed and met over the summer, making a number of recommendations that will hopefully allow our summer session to become increasingly attractive to students. As for non-resident students, the Committee on International Education (CIE) and Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA) are leading efforts to substantially

increase the number of international non-resident students. Working with the Admissions office, the target was successfully achieved for the 2013-14 academic year, meaning that over 100 new international students are now among the UCSC student body. These issues kept the Senate busy last year and will do so this year as the Senate works with administration to solidify efforts of planning and execution. In the meantime, Chancellor Blumenthal has taken note of the future possibilities and challenges concerning international efforts and, as a result, has appointed Dr. Anurdha Luther Maitra as Special Advisor for International Initiatives. The Chair urged all Senators to begin thinking about the impact that an internationalized UCSC can have on teaching, research, and service.

We are nearing the end of the health care open enrollment period and most faculty and staff will have to change their healthcare plans. With hopes that everyone had been paying close attention to the substantive changes to the programs, the Chair went on to tell everyone to look forward to a resolution from the Committee on Faculty Welfare (CFW) which brings to light some of the perceived shortcomings of these new health care options and their implementation.

Chair Konopelski's announcements were concluded with a 90 second video which introduced the open access policy that was passed in July by the systemwide Academic Senate. This policy originated two years ago from both systemwide and UCSC Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (COLASC). COLASC, with the library staff and systemwide web site for open access (UC-oa.info), will be the primary sources of information and help pertaining to open access. Expecting this topic to be new to the majority of those in the audience, Chair Konopelski presented this video as a teaser to get Senators thinking, talking, and formulating questions on the issue.

b. Chancellor Blumenthal

Chancellor Blumenthal, sending his regrets, was unable to attend.

c. Campus Provost/Executive Vice Chancellor Galloway

Many of UCSC's faculty members continue to bring recognition to the university. CPEVC Alison Galloway announced various awards which came from faculty representing numerous departments and took many forms including career achievement, early career, excellence honors, fellowships, divisional honors, and community recognition.

CPEVC Galloway discussed the logistical issues concerning the strike planned by AFSCME for November 20, 2013. This is not an informational strike, but one that will possibly block workers and students from coming onto campus. At the time of the announcement, the TA union (UAW) and possibly other unions will be striking in sympathy with the AFSCME service workers. Busses will not be allowed to come onto campus; students coming from off campus will be dropped off about a block from the entrance and, with the exception of the disability bus service, there will be no shuttle service due to a shortage of management that has resulted from relatively recent budget cuts. It was requested that anyone trying to gain access to the campus first check the website for frequent updates, and that instructors are patient with students who may have difficulty accessing campus.

Envision 2020, The Comprehensive Campaign was launched on October 14, 2013 with the goal of raising \$300M for UCSC, over half of which (\$151M) has already been raised. Most reactions to this campaign have been quite positive. The campaign has four initiatives that are primarily research-based; the project is seeking support for endowed chairs for faculty as well as graduate fellowships and support in Genomics and Health, Coastal Health and Sustainability, Data Sciences, and the Institute of the Arts and Sciences. Additionally, Envision 2020 is looking for funding for the Transformative Student Experiences, specifically not just scholarship money, but to support what the institution needs to provide students in order to have the type of experience they will look back and say “that is what changed my life, that is where I really found myself.” The campaign is seeking to raise money for the Transformative Student Experience that includes a leadership certificate program, an enhanced program for undergraduates to be involved with faculty research field experience and service learning. The colleges will play a major role in this, as will scholarships, fellowships, and restoring our key facilities such as the Quarry Amphitheatre.

An update about the 7th annual Founders Day Celebration was given, highlighting the fact that for the first time ever, this event sold out. CPEVC Galloway went on to discuss that the university is beginning to prepare 2015 celebrations for the 50th anniversary of UCSC’s founding. The objectives for the 50th anniversary celebration are to shine light on UCSC’s accomplishments as well as plans for the upcoming years. There are two planning groups, one internal and one external. The internal committee, chaired by Susan Gillman and Dean of Graduate Studies Tyrus Miller has already begun working on events that highlight the impact of the campus on both science and the community. The external committee is run by distinguished UCSC alumni and is working to, amongst other things, attract media attention to the university, engage with alumni, and energize supporters.

CPEVC Galloway described Envision 2020 as this year’s strategic planning initiative. The Planning Task Force is chaired by Lynn Westerkamp and Peggy Delaney and consists of 53 members, over half of whom are faculty members. Galloway made it clear that these are not the only voices that will be heard throughout this strategic planning process. Faculty, staff, administrators, and student groups may be invited to attend planning events, however those who are not personally invited are urged to attend one of the open sessions that will be held. The Planning Task Force will also be using online surveys to collect input, where all comments and suggestions will be posted and regularly updated on envision.ucsc.edu.

Over the past five years UCSC has undergone a significant amount of budget cuts and resource uncertainty. Planning assumptions that need to be accounted for as the campus looks toward the future are the Governor’s Multi-Year Funding Plan for the UC, the President’s promises, and the UCOP budget. Under the Governor’s Multi-Year Funding Plan, there has been a five percent base increase in state funding for the UC for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 academic years, and in 2015-16 and 2016-17 there will be an additional four percent base increase in state funding. During this four-year period it is anticipated there will be no additional tuition increases. UC President Janet Napolitano is in discussion with the UC Regents concerning a possible tuition freeze for this year and the next, and exploring the possibility of cohort tuition, in which individuals entering the UC as freshman will be given a set maximum of tuition increases for the

next four years, giving predictability about maximum tuition obligations. President Napolitano will put an additional \$15M into postdoctoral fellowships, graduate support, and support for undocumented students (\$5M into each category). Napolitano is prompting efforts to streamline transfers from community colleges, improve Intellectual Property and tech transfers between the university and industry, and has proposed the university attempt to achieve zero net energy consumption by 2025 in order to increase the sustainability of the UC system. While looking to the future, we will need to stay aware of the UCOP budget; since this changes the campus assessment. If UCOP overspends the assessment, the cost of the campus can go up. There has been a massive efficiency sweep called for by President Napolitano, so we will have to wait and see what this means for the UCSC campus as well as the larger UC system.

For UCSC, funding from the State will cover some—but not all—of our campus’s mandatory costs (including salary increases generated from collective bargaining agreements, increased costs of health care, and employer contributions to the retirement system) for the next few years.

2013–14 marks the second year of rebenching, a process in which we are expecting to continue for another four years. In the last two years 36 faculty positions have been restored and UCSC is looking for about 16 additional positions to be recruited in 2014–15. The university is also hoping to improve the student-to-TA ratio by adding additional resources to the FTE TA assistantships. This proposal is currently with the Senate and UCSC is looking forward to their comments and suggestions.

The issue of space has been affecting our faculty recruitment and retention at UCSC. Our campus needs facilities for newly recruited faculty members, however we do not have enough State funded buildings. We are hopeful that plans for our next academic building—Coastal Biology—will continue to move forward.

The UC’s Long Range Enrollment Plan (LREP) was recently filed. This fall UCSC has over 270 new doctoral students entering the university, our largest class yet, meaning we have been successful in our graduate recruitment endeavors. UCSC has also been successful in increasing the amount of out-of-state and international undergraduate students, with 227 entering last year and nearly 400 entering for the 2013–14 term. This year UCSC saw a decrease in the overall undergraduate enrollments from California residents, however this is expected to bounce back in the next few years. The undergraduate student body at UCSC is quite diverse this year; almost 35 percent of new freshman are Latino, and 28 percent of new transfers are also Latino. This year UCSC has also had increases in first generation college students, as well as Pell grant recipients.

We are hopeful that increased enrollments in summer session will contribute to UCSC’s overall campus resources, as well as improve student progress and time-to-degree rates. CPEVC Galloway urged faculty members to consider summer session as an opportunity to offer courses of high-demand for the benefit of both students and the summer 2014 program.

In October, UC President Napolitano visited UCSC as part of a systemwide “listening tour.” She went to Cowell College, where she met with Provost Alice Yang, visited the Cowell/Stevenson Dining Hall and Eloise Pickard Gallery, chatted with students, and was briefed on the history and relevance of the colleges. She then was taken to the Center for Adaptive Optics where she met

with graduate students and faculty, learning about their research and the UCO/Lick situation. She visited McHenry Library, toured the Grateful Dead Archives and met with Interim University Librarian Elizabeth Cowell and Humanities Faculty. President Napolitano also made a stop at the bookstore, where she bought slug memorabilia. In the evening, she went to the EdTalks downtown with members of the Santa Cruz community. On her second day visiting the campus she was taken to the Long Marine Lab where she got to pet dolphins. She then met with the Senate Executive Committee, the Staff Advisory Board, Student Government, and a group of Undocumented Students. The President also took part in the Comprehensive Campaign Launch. Overall, President Napolitano seemed very impressed with the campus, however she was cautious in everything she said.

CPEVC Galloway concluded her updates with an update of our Senior Management and Administration. There are four senior management/administrative searches underway at UCSC; Vice Chancellor for University Relations (VCUR), Chief Campus Counsel, University Librarian, and the Humanities Dean. UCSC is looking for two or three viable candidates for the VCUR search. Once found, we will hold campus interviews for these individuals. The Chief Campus Counsel search will be organized in concurrence with the OP Office of General Counsel, and the University Librarian search are expected to begin in early December. We expect to launch the search for the Dean of the Humanities in December, or January at the latest. In the meantime, Jeff Shilling is the interim VCUR and Anu Luthur has stepped in as Special Advisory to the Chancellor for international information. The Undergraduate Student Success Task Force Report has resulted in the appointment of Jaye Padgett to a half-time position supporting the coordination and implementation of efforts to enhance UCSC's retention and time-to-degree. VPAA Herbie Lee has been assigned to head campus efforts for online education.

A comment came from the floor emphasizing that the upcoming strike has left many in a quandary, and advice was requested on how to prepare for strike day.

CPEVC Galloway responded explaining that the University really doesn't know what the situation will be. In the past, some strikes have blocked union access to the campus, but not all access, however it is unknown if this will be the situation on November 20. The best advice she was able to provide was to keep everyone aware and to check on the website regularly. As more information surfaces, the office will try and pass that information on to the rest of the university. What is known is that it is very unlikely UCSC will be able to have any shuttles working, so if individuals are not able to drive onto campus, they will have to walk.

3. Report of the Representative to the Assembly (none)

4. Special Orders: Annual Reports

It was requested from the floor that the report from the Committee on Faculty Welfare (CFW) be pulled for discussion. All other reports were accepted by the Senate.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. **Committee on Academic Freedom (AS/SCP/1728)**

- b. **Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (AS/SCP/1729)**
- c. **Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity (AS/SCP/1730)**
- d. **Committee on Computing and Telecommunications (AS/SCP/1731)**
- e. **Committee on Educational Policy (AS/SCP/1732)**
- f. **Committee on Emeriti Relations (AS/SCP/1733)**
- g. **Committee on Faculty Welfare (AS/SCP/1734)**

There was a question from the floor about the statement from page 3 of the CFW Annual Report. In the second paragraph under the “Housing” section, it says that the Employee Housing Accounts: Repricing Program Financial Report (9/28/2012) shows a recent pattern of home sales to faculty and staff being “in the red.” It was requested that more details on this program as “in the red” be provided, because when the program was originally created, the intention was that it would result in the collection of funds to be used to offset the costs of future faculty housing developments.

CPEVC Galloway responded, saying that the “redness” of this account reflects the fact that we have stock that is not yet being sold, and therefore no money has been brought into the account through these means.

There were secondary questions from the floor: Why is this program continuing? Who benefits? The concern was that it is not benefiting faculty since every time someone buys a house, they are paying a substantially larger price than they would have otherwise. Previously this program was justified because the high price would be used to reduce the costs of future housing. It currently seems that this will not be possible.

It was explained that the University benefits in the fact that UCSC cannot sell substandard housing. Part of the money is being used to bring units up to code and making sure renovations are suitable for resale.

A Senator continued, saying he sees houses that have already been remodeled being bought again by the University to make minor adjustments, and presumably incurring a substantial loss in the process.

CPEVC Galloway responded, stating that UCSC is not incurring a loss in this process.

The Report was accepted.

- h. **Committee on International Education (AS/SCP/1735)**
- i. **Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications (AS/SCP/1736)**
- j. **Committee on Planning and Budget (AS/SCP/1737)**
- k. **Committee on Preparatory Education (AS/SCP/1738)**
- l. **Committee on Privilege and Tenure (AS/SCP/1739)**
- m. **Committee on Research (AS/SCP/1740)**
- n. **Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction, and Elections (AS/SCP/1741)**
- o. **Committee on Teaching (AS/SCP/1742)**
- p. **Graduate Council (AS/SCP/1743)**

5. Reports of Special Committees (none)

6. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Committee on Committees (AS/SCP/1744)

i. Additional Nominations 2013-14

There were a few changes to Senate positions for the 2013-14 academic year. The changes that appeared in the Call were accepted by acclamation.

b. Committee on Faculty Welfare

i. Resolution on Health Care (AS/SCP/1745)

CFW member Donna Hunter presented on behalf of Chair Barry Bowman who could not attend. Many faculty and staff currently hold health insurance plans that are being discontinued in 2014, meaning they will be required to change plans. The purpose of CFW's resolution is to alert everyone that some of the plan information—especially what was released in October on the open enrollment webpage—was inaccurate and incomplete. CFW is urging the UC administration to allow employees sufficient time to consider their options, as well as to allow employees who have already chosen their new plan the ability to change plans if they feel they made the wrong choice due to misleading or insufficient information. Additionally, it is important to note that the new UC Care Plan is a PPO, not an HMO like the HealthNet Plan that is being discontinued (the two plans are very different).

CFW encourages faculty to read the plan details and not rely on the plan summaries because those summaries may not include all of the expected out-of-

pocket expenses. For example, this is true for UC Care regarding Emergency Room services. For specific questions or more information on the plans, CFW encourages you speak to our Campus HealthCare Facilitator, Frank Trueba, of the Benefits Office. Please also note that the Open Enrollment website as well as some hard-copy plan information has been updated since the beginning of Open Enrollment. These updates are not marked as such, which makes it tricky to locate changes. Senators are encouraged to go back online and view the full coverage details to ensure it is the correct choice for them and their family.

By passing this resolution, CFW hopes that the Academic Senate at UCSC will alert their colleagues of issues regarding the Open Enrollment website and associated documents. CFW also hopes the Senate will join them in urging the administration to provide employees with adequate time to make informed decisions concerning their healthcare coverage. Over the past two weeks, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, Academic Council, and the System wide Committee on Faculty Welfare have also taken action for health care issues.

The resolution was opened for discussion:

There was shock over the fact that plans are changing and not being marked. The question was asked: Is CFW aware of whether this is legal or not? If Health Plans are legally required to provide a summary of benefits and coverage to prospective enrollees under the Affordable Care Act, does this mean an accurate summary of benefits and coverage? Is CFW willing to inquire with the Department of Health Insurance whether what the University is doing is legal?

CFW responded saying questions have been posed about Evidence of Coverage (EOC), and the reply has been that the University is not obligated to release or make available all of that very detailed information until the plan goes into effect (January 1, 2014).

A comment from the floor suggested that CFW go to the Department of Health Insurance, where they may be willing to accommodate a complaint.

There was another question about UCFW's letter, specific to UC Care, which says that if an individual is hospitalized, he or she needs to be aware that some services might be provided by independently contracting physicians who may or may not be in the UC Select network. Is this true for other Health Care plans as well?

Discussions shifted to details about plan coverage, and Chair Konopelski intervened, saying the meeting had gotten off the topic of the resolution. Questions about UCFW's letter should be directed to the Chair of UCFW. It appears that no one has the complete information, and therefore no one knows how incomplete the information currently is.

CFW member Hunter restated what is said in the resolution; that they want to alert everyone that checking and documenting (for instance, printing out what is posted on the webpage) while making Health Care decisions is important so you have evidence if you decide to change your coverage in the future. Chair Konopelski reiterated that Benefits Coordinator Frank Trueba is available to meet with your department or unit.

The resolution passed by voice vote.

c. Committee on International Education

i. Oral Report on Internationalizing UCSC (AS/SCP/1746)

CIE Chair Ben Crow and member Arnav Jhala gave a presentation showing some options concerning international education. We are at a historical turning-point and CIE wants to begin a conversation with faculty and students about internationalization of campus. There is an agreement amongst many faculty—along with encouragement from the Senate and administration—that in order to continue moving forward as a research university, as well as to provide adequate training for our students, UCSC needs to internationalize. The questions and topics in this presentation are intended to begin a discussion concerning how to go about internationalizing our campus.

Over the last year, CIE explored what internationalization means for intuitions such as UCSC. Looking at initiatives at other institutions, CIE started brainstorming what internationalization might be like at UCSC, and where the campus priorities would lie.

CIE recognizes that internationalization can serve as an opportunity to create relationships with foreign institutions for faculty research, and the exchange of graduate students. There is currently activity in the Chancellor's Office regarding such initiatives. Additionally, it would be beneficial for faculty and students to have the opportunity to visit campuses and become engaged. CIE also finds it important to increase the number of international students in order to raise UCSC's profile on the global stage so the campus can attract higher quality students and researchers. Programs abroad for the undergraduate population of UCSC need additional resources to provide our students with more global perspectives. Finally, increased support on campus for hosting international colleagues is of great importance. CIE hopes these points will begin a discussion and invites faculty members to raise other topics they would like to be considered while UCSC prepares a mission to fit into the larger global community.

Last year CIE looked at three basic tasks. First, faculty-led programs (for which there was not adequate support structure at the International Education Office); second, the recruitment of international students, which would make the campus more diverse and also bring UCSC up to the mandate of the systemwide enrollment requirement, thus resulting in more funding to our campus. Currently,

it seems that UCSC has lost about \$7M by not having enough international and out-of-state students. It should be noted that having international students does not prevent California residents from enrolling, having greater resources almost certainly makes it possible for us to increase our numbers of students overall. UCSC is overenrolled, meaning we have not been provided funding for all California students at UCSC. Enrolling international students will allow us to provide a more diversified student body. Chair Crow went on to explain that internationalization is not only about the enrollment of international students. While this is a good start, there is a whole range of other issues that need further discussion, and the campus needs to decide which the highest priorities are. Finally, CIE began working on the issue of the staffing of the International Education Office. The committee is very pleased to see that the administration has responded and improved staffing. CIE is arguing that there is continuing need to increase the staffing level in the International Education Office as UCSC moves into consideration about what we want to do in the future.

For the 2013–14 academic year, CIE is looking for more input from faculty and students. The committee is thinking about a minor or certificate around international education. Other universities have some form of certificate for global competence, global leadership, or global citizenship. CIE is building up ideas to present to the Committee on Educational Policy about this certificate. CIE conducted a survey designed to get an inventory of what latent connections of internationalization already exist on campus, and as CIE seeks more information, the committee encourages faculty members to respond. The survey is also collecting information on what things faculty has wanted to do in terms of international issues, but was not able to do as a result of insufficient resources or infrastructure. Even despite the small number of respondents to the survey, the initial results show that UCSC faculty have lived in 70 different countries, regularly visit 63 countries, maintain regular contact in 79 countries in terms of university related activities, speak 38 different languages, and have taught or researched in 89 different countries. In the next two years, UCSC researchers are planning to travel in 54 different countries. The respondents to the survey have applied for over 150 grants with international focus and have hosted over 200 international colleagues in the last five years. CIE hopes these initial results give everyone a sense for how important this survey is in terms of collecting data and gathering all this information in one place. CIE is planning campus forums concerning these efforts.

The committee has also been in dialogue with different stakeholders concerning how to increase and improve UCSC's curriculum related materials in order to be part of the global movement. CIE has also received responses about exchange programs from international students at UCSC and students leaving to go abroad; there are a lot of practical issues that hinder UCSC students' participation in exchange programs. In the upcoming year, CIE will be taking a closer look at these issues and will work with the campus to improve this process.

Chair Crow closed the presentation by explaining that internationalization is an ongoing process. CIE has been quite pleased that the administration has been responsive to the committee's requests. Among some of the crucial first steps that have been made are the appointment of an Associate Dean for International Education and Chancellor Blumenthal's Special Advisor on Internationalization, Anu Luther. CIE met with Anu and was thrilled with the specificity and immediacy of the ideas she has. It should be noted, though, that CIE views internationalization as an adaptive process, and not one in which we can build a large infrastructure immediately. While more money is clearly needed in many areas, what UCSC needs is a larger discussion.

The floor was opened for questions and comments about the report.

Chair Crow responded to a question about the cost of visas as an impediment, saying that internationalization will need funding. The gradual process of bringing in nonresident and international students offers the possibility of creating funding that can be used to help internationalize UCSC.

VPDUE Richard Hughey responded to a question about the results of outreach and recruiting, saying that recruitment for the most recent academic year started about two years ago. UCSC's increased number of international students were greatly supported thanks to CPEVC Galloway's investment in both staffing and Undergraduate Deans Awards. Combined with the organizational restructuring of Student Affairs that the Senate encouraged and its approval from CPEVC Galloway, admissions management was able to change how it worked on these issues. There was also some policy work with CAFA that enabled UCSC to apply admissions evaluations independently to international students. For instance, international students do not have access to honors or Advanced Placement (AP) courses that have been certified by the UC, while many California residents do. It was also noted that CIE played a great role in helping to build momentum among faculty.

Chair Crow responded to a suggestion for a central office to manage academic exchanges, saying he agrees, and UCSC does need some central office that can provide information on these types of exchanges. Our campus does not have a lot of experience with these types of programs and we need a professional that can advise us through the process.

An issue was raised from the floor, explaining that a huge problem for international faculty and students when they arrive at UCSC is proper resources to be easily integrated into a foreign institution. We need to place more emphasis on our infrastructure, so that foreign students coming to our institution—completely unfamiliar with our culture—do not feel isolated.

Chair Crow agreed and explained that the administration is putting in a fair amount of thought concerning retention and ensuring new students are adequately

supported. While some things are being done concerning this issue, it is likely more needs to be done.

There was a positive comment from the floor highlighting the fact that there has been lots of positive support from the UCSC administration on issues surrounding international education that were not well supported about 20 years ago. It was additionally urged that existing agreements concerning international education between UCSC and any foreign institutions should be easy to access, as they often are not.

Chair Crow responded that CIE is already aware of these issues and will be attempting to track down such agreements, as well as make efforts to ensure these agreements get used.

7. Report of the Student Union Assembly Chair

Student Union Assembly (SUA) Chair Shaz Umer reported SUA's activities over the last three months. SUA has taken a stance and asked the Regents to divest from their fossil fuel assets and instead make more efforts to be sustainable. The Student Union Assembly is also providing more resources for sustainable organizations to make sure UCSC meets its sustainability goals set to be reached by 2020.

There is a need for events that drive the student experience and represent what makes UCSC great—outside of its academic and research components. SUA is working on planning large student events (such as concerts) to add additional activities and strengthen the UCSC community, especially for those living on campus.

SUA also has questions about how the new UC Smoke and Tobacco Free Initiative in effect on January 1, 2014 will be enforced and regulated? Why is there no transition process? There are concerns that this initiative could become a fire hazard if students go to the forest to smoke. SUA is additionally concerned about how this will affect faculty and staff who may have limited break times, but will have to leave campus in order to smoke. A request from SUA is currently being created to ask UC President Napolitano to put smoke-free zones on campus as part of a transitioning process.

8. Report of the Graduate Student Association President

Cameron Alston, President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA), gave an update about common topics at GSA meetings over the past few months and reported on the successful visit from President Napolitano. The UAW contract negotiations (which the Graduate Student Association supports fully) is a topic of concern. This year GSA was granted some one-time funding and the association has been spending a lot of meeting time trying to determine what to do with these funds. Presently, it looks as if this money will be going to the travel-fund budget since many departments are struggling to accommodate graduate student travel.

9. Petitions of Students (none)

10. Unfinished Business (none)

11. University and Faculty Welfare

12. New Business

Chair Konopelski introduced the Special Advisor to the Chancellor on International Initiatives Anu Luther. Luther described her career history, explaining that she, right out of graduate school, first came to UCSC in the 1980s as an assistant professor of Economics. In the year 2000 she became a trustee for the Foundation Board and subsequently led the board for two years. Additionally, she has been running a software company for the past 15 years. With this new Advisor position, she has been finding herself asking “what does internationalization mean?” She went on to explain that as a campus, UCSC already thinks globally, inclusively, and acts responsibly for our local environment and economy. One thing that skeptics of internationalization should be aware of, though, is that there does not have to be a compromise between academic standards and international efforts. Additionally, UCSC does not have to compromise on our mission to provide a quality education to the top California students. Special Advisor Luther is using her experience as a CEO to think strategically and keep financial implications in mind. She is also selecting activities where she can see the best comparative advantage within constraints of optimization. Luther ended her comments, saying she was excited to be working on internationalization and advised Senators to send any thoughts to her at her email, anu@ucsc.edu.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

ATTEST:
Junko Ito
Secretary

January 30, 2014