

## **Resolution to Create a Special Committee on Athletics**

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

Since 1981, the University of California, Santa Cruz has participated in inter-collegiate athletics as a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III. In that time over 5,000 student athletes have participated in UCSC athletics, distinguishing themselves in the classroom and in competition. To date, the athletic program (currently consisting of 15 teams, men and women) has been supported by a combination of campus funds and student fees. This follows the model throughout the country. The funding level, however, lies below even that of the smallest Division III schools (e.g. Pomona).

In 2014, the University announced its intent to suspend campus funding of UCSC athletics. Last year, the Office of Physical Education, Recreation, and Sports (OPERS) developed a referendum that would fund student athletics and other recreation activities with student fees. This referendum was well supported but did not pass the high-bar required (40% participation and 66% yes). The University agreed to provide one-time funds to support athletics through the 2015-2016 academic year. OPERS is now developing a new set of referenda for the student body to consider in spring 2016. If the one supporting athletics were to fail, it is likely that the UCSC athletic program would be terminated.

Thus far, the Academic Senate has not been consulted on these actions. While the participants are drawn solely from the student body, there are multiple aspects of the athletic program that may affect the faculty and its welfare. These include: (i) the ability to attract the best possible applicants and admit and keep the best possible undergraduates (ii) UCSC's standing as a top-tier university, (iii) the quality of recreation facilities at UCSC, (iv) alumni fund-raising; and (v) campus life more generally.

The undersigned propose that the Senate convene a Special Committee on Athletics for a duration of six months. The Santa Cruz Divisional bylaws state that "No Special Committees shall be established to perform any duty assigned by these Bylaws to a Standing Committee." We have confirmed with the Committee on Committees (COC), and the Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction and Elections (RJ&E) that this is the case. COC endorses establishing a special committee and, we propose that as is COC's usual practice, that COC will endeavor to confirm faculty representation from all five divisions. The committee will provide the Academic Senate with a report on the values and impacts of having/not-having an NCAA athletic program at UCSC, as regards faculty, students, and the overall university. It may provide the Academic Senate with recommendations on the future of the athletic program. This report will be submitted to the Academic Senate in advance of its May 18, 2016 meeting. The Committee will be established February 29, 2016 and convene through June 30, 2016.

Therefore it be resolved that the Senate shall form:

### **Special Committee on Athletics**

**There are six Santa Cruz Division members, plus the Director of Athletics and Dean of Students *ex officio*. The Vice Chancellor of University Relations and the CP/EVC are invited to sit with the committee. The Committee on Committees shall appoint sufficient members to provide necessary expertise.**

**The Committee advises the Academic Senate and Administration on priorities, policies and strategies related to athletics. The Committee serves as a resource for the CP/EVC to engage and enroll faculty in this matter. The Special Committee shall submit its report at the May 2016 Academic Senate meeting.**

Respectful submitted;  
J. Xavier Prochaska  
Daniel Wirls

January 20, 2016