



Academic Senate

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

March 31, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

I write to welcome you back into the Spring quarter and hope that you feel rested as we move towards the end of the academic year.

You will have read the Chancellor's informative memo about all that the university is doing to ensure that the campus and Isla Vista are spaces where our students can study and learn well, and, along with the rest of the community, can feel comfortable and safe. Faculty have been critical in these efforts. A number of faculty have also taken undergraduate students out for dinner in the previous two quarters, dinners which are reimbursed by funds from a donor, and I hope we can continue to do this in the coming weeks. Faculty have told me they enjoy these dinners enormously, as they come to see a side of their students – often a responsible and mature side – to which we are not always privy in the classroom or lab. I find that these dinners are often filled with laughter.

May 2015 marks the one-year point after the tragic events of last year. A number of Remembrance Events are being organised for late May to honor the dead and injured, and to bring together a wide range of constituencies who have been deeply affected. Examples include an exhibit entitled "We Remember Them: Acts of Love and Compassion in Isla Vista" to be located in the Old Gym, a concert of music composed by students in the department of music, a faculty led discussion and an open mike night for the community to express its thoughts and feelings – the former in the Multi Cultural Center and the latter in Isla Vista – as well as a faculty-led lighting installation from the Library walkway to the tunnel. Associated Students are organising a Vigil for the evening of May 23rd, and Senate is working on an event to be held at lunchtime on the same day. I know these series of events – most to be held in the week of 16th May – will not only serve as times for remembrance but also as periods when our campus and communities in Isla Vista can come together to honor and heal.

I should also like you to know that Senate has initiated a joint ad hoc Task Force on Health Care at UCSB, with the Faculty Association. This Task Force has two members of the FA, along with myself, Stan Awramik -- the Chair of CFIA, -- and Richard Watts, who is on the systemwide Health Care Task Force. We have discussed strategies and plan to speak with Dr. Stobo at UCOP in the coming weeks. I will keep you informed of our discussions.

Finally, April 9th marks a date when research grant applications are due -- both for the Senate Committee on Research and for Pearl Chase Funds -- as well as nominations for the Undergraduate Research Awards. Please do submit your applications and nominations.

Again, I hope you will not hesitate to be in touch with any thoughts you may have regarding Senate initiatives. I wish you all the best for the coming 10 weeks.

Yours sincerely

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair, UCSB Division, Academic Senate