February 24, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I write to keep you informed about two matters, and to mention our ongoing Senate election.

1.   Pensions

The Academic Assembly of the Academic Senate (the systemwide equivalent of the Faculty Legislature) passed a resolution regarding the changes in the UC pension plan. Academic Council has also sent a letter to President Napolitano based on comments from all ten campuses about the introduction of the new 2016 Pension tier. You may read the Assembly Resolution at: http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/assembly/

and the Academic Council letter at:
http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/reports/documents/DH_JN_ROTF_2-12-16.pdf

2.   Cybersecurity

UC Berkeley faculty voiced concerns about cyber monitoring at the UC, particularly the monitoring which had been introduced in August 2015, after the cyber breach at UCLA a few months earlier. On February 1, 2016, a letter from UC Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Rachael Nava was distributed to faculty and staff of all ten UC campuses that spoke to the concerns of the Berkeley faculty. The concerns of the UCB faculty center on issues of consultation regarding cyber monitoring, as well as issues of transparency, including where the monitored data is stored, for how long, and related matters. Since the distribution of COO Nava's letter there have been some press reports, with one in the New York Times:
http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/02/technology/at-uc-berkeley-a-new-digital-privacy-protest.html?_r=0

and the one below:
http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2016/02/profs-protest-invasive-cybersecurity-measures-at-university-of-california-campuses/

Our campus, under the leadership of our Chief Information Officer and Cyber Risk Responsible Executive, AVC Matthew Hall, wishes to collaborate with our Academic Senate to create a charter for an Academic Security, Privacy, and Operations workgroup that would examine these issues for UCSB, and conversations are already underway as we address cybersecurity with a local solution.

3.   UCSB Senate Election

You will have received a reminder, yesterday, about the election for the next Chair of the UCSB Senate. The election closes on 3rd March at 5 pm, and I invite you to cast your vote by that date. You may do so by signing in to the website at https://senate.ucsb.edu/ballots

Best wishes.

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