

The following message is being sent to Senate members.

April 3, 2024

Divisional Chair's Newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to the last academic quarter of 2023-2024! I hope you found some time to rest and recoup during spring break. I write to update you on several evolving issues at both the campus and systemwide levels.

An important safety message for your students. The next Deltopia event, with its attendant risks of alcohol poisoning and drug overdose, is right around the corner: Friday, April 4-Sunday, April 7. Student Health is offering free Overdose Prevention and Training, on campus and in Isla Vista. Please encourage your students to be responsible, and to reach out for help as needed. An informational slide for use in your classroom is available here as a [.PDF](#) or [.PNG](#) file.

In defense of shared governance. Systemwide Academic Senate Chair Jim Steintrager (UC Irvine) gave a spirited statement to the Board of Regents at the March 20 Joint Meeting of the Regents' Academic and Student Affairs & Compliance and Audit Committees, in which he chastised some for ignoring faculty expertise in several recent matters before the Board. The [video recording](#) is well worth watching (Chair Steintrager's remarks begin at timestamp 17:26, and run for 8.5 min.).

Update on proposed Regents' policy on the use of administrative websites. The expedited systemwide review of the proposed Regents' Policy on the Use of Administrative Websites resulted in a unanimous vote of [non-endorsement](#) from the Academic Council. The Regents discussed a version of their [proposed policy](#) on March 20 (the video recording is split, due to a disruption from the audience). The first portion is available [here](#) (the discussion begins at timestamp 27:45 and runs for approximately five minutes. The second portion is available [here](#) (the discussion begins immediately at runs approximately 65 min.).

The proposed policy has now been renamed as the Policy on Public and Discretionary Statements by Academic Units, and its scope has been expanded to include all academic units, including divisional Academic Senates. Other significant changes to the proposed policy include: barring such statements on the main (landing) pages of unit websites; extending the definition of

such statements to include other modes of communication; requiring disclaimers stating that the statements do not reflect the position of the UC or campus; requiring that the statements be consistent with applicable law and University policy; and requiring each unit to create and publish its own bylaws that govern the rules for formulation and voting on such statements. The last of these requirements would closely resemble the Senate's 2022 University Committee on Academic Freedom [Recommendations on Department Political Statements](#).

The Regents' revised policy proposal, available [here](#), has again been distributed for expedited systemwide review. Individual Senate members and/or departments may submit comments to the Academic Senate office at info@senate.ucsb.edu by April 18, 2024, in order for us to include these views with our divisional response. The systemwide Academic Council will discuss this matter at their April meeting, prior to the Regents' meeting in May.

Plous Lecture. Dr. Charmaine Chua, Assistant Professor in the Department of Global Studies, will give the 2023-24 Harold J. Plous Award Lecture on Thursday, April 11, at 4:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall at the Mosher Alumni House. Her lecture is titled "Breaking Our (Supply) Chains: Anti-colonial Resistance in a Just-In-Time World." For more information, please see the [event flyer](#).

Results of the 2024 divisional Senate elections. I am pleased to announce that **Rita Raley**, current Vice Chair of the Santa Barbara Division and Professor in the Department of English, has been elected as the Academic Senate's Divisional Chair for 2024-25. Rita brings her extensive experience to this role, as a former Co-Chair of the Teaching Evaluation Workgroup, Chair of the Program Review Panel and Chair of the Graduate Council. Please give her a warm welcome. Many thanks to all who participated in the election, and congratulations to all of our elected members, whose terms begin on September 1:

Representative to the Assembly of the Academic Senate

Sabine Frühstück, Professor, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies

Area A: College of Letters and Science Mathematical, Life, and Physical Sciences Division and Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management

Bruce Lipshutz, Professor, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Area C: College of Letters and Science Humanities and Fine Arts Division and College of Creative Studies

Joseph Blankholm, Professor, Department of Religious Studies

Area D: College of Engineering

Rich Wolski, Professor of Computer Science

In some areas, there were no valid nominees or an insufficient number of valid nominees to fill the vacant spaces. Two positions for Representative to the Assembly of the Academic Senate and one position on the Committee on Committees in Area B: College of Letters and Science Social Sciences Division and Gevirtz Graduate School of Education will be filled by the Committee on Committees.

Undergraduate residency requirement. Last year, a new section of Senate Regulation (SR) 630 established a “campus experience” requirement for undergraduate degrees, mandating that a minimum of 10% of Bachelor's degree coursework be done in person at a UC campus. Its intended purpose was to prevent campuses from creating online degrees without systemwide review, and to avoid awarding any (as-yet unaccredited) online degrees inadvertently.

Although SR 630.E. was approved by the Assembly of the Academic Senate, the Regents asserted that the Senate had overstepped its authority. SR 630.E. was taken as a recommendation, which the Regents ultimately declined to approve at their meeting on February 14 (among the reasons given were respect for campus autonomy and support for perceived campus and systemwide interests in offering fully online undergraduate degrees). Consequently, the campus experience requirement is no longer in effect. The video recording of the Regents’ discussion is available [here](#) (this agenda item begins immediately after the roll call and runs approximately 50 minutes).

The authority for the establishment of undergraduate degree programs rests with the Faculty Legislature or Legislative Assembly in each Division’s Academic Senate, and each Division will now need to determine how best to manage online degree programs on their respective campuses.

Support for undocumented students. Fewer of our undocumented AB 540 students are still covered by DACA, and many are therefore ineligible to work on campus. The Regents recently considered a proposal to hire undocumented students, under a theory that federal law did not apply to the UC as a state institution. After much legal consultation, this path was deemed not viable at the present time.

Instead, the Office of the President is provided funding for campuses to expand experiential learning opportunities for non-DACA undocumented students. Under this program, eligible students in state-funded degree programs will have the opportunity to receive a fellowship for enrolling in experiential learning courses. The instructor of record will be involved in decisions about course activities and deliverables related to the awarding of these fellowships. Our campus is also piloting a program in spring quarter to provide meal plan scholarships for undocumented students.

UC admissions policy deliberations. The Board of Admissions, Enrollment, and Relations with Schools' (BOARS) Area C Workgroup has released its Stage 1 report, containing recommendations on: 1) which high school courses should validate (substitute for) the Algebra II/Math III course for [UC admission requirements](#), and 2) which courses are most appropriate for a fourth year of Mathematics. The Working Group recommends that only courses containing advanced algebra (including any such data science courses) should validate Algebra II/Math III, and that the concepts in the fourth year of Mathematics should extend beyond those taken in the first-third years. These recommendations, which were endorsed by BOARS, were [presented](#) to the Regents at their March 20 meeting. The video recording is available [here](#). The discussion of this agenda item begins at timestamp 1:19:31 and lasts for approximately 53 minutes. We will share additional information as it becomes available.

[Proposed revisions](#) to Senate Regulation (SR) 424.A.3 are currently (and again) under review systemwide. These revisions, presented by BOARS, introduce a new [subject requirement](#) for UC admission, Ethnic Studies, which if adopted would become Area H. The addition of an Ethnic Studies admissions requirement would be timed to align with the new Ethnic Studies graduation requirement for all California public high schools. Area H would be non-additive, in the sense that some courses used to fulfill A-G requirements could simultaneously serve to satisfy the Area H requirement. The decision on if/how to create a new Area H requirement belongs to the Regents.

UC budget projections. Despite the downturn in California [budget projections](#) and the expectation that the 5% base budget increase promised to UC in the coming year under the governor's compact will be delayed until at least the next fiscal year, UCOP has informally expressed a desire to move ahead with a planned systemwide salary increase (overall, about 4%) for faculty and non-represented staff in the fall. The key news to watch will be the governor's "May revise" budget proposal, due around May 14, when we will find out if the governor intends to maintain the UC's current budget without cuts. The UC is also proceeding with its obligations to increase student enrollment under the compact, since admissions decisions must be made before next year's budget is finalized.

A plan for systemwide reweighting of the per-student funding formulas (called the "budget allocation model") is also proceeding despite the budget uncertainty. Undergraduate students from underresourced (LCFF+) high schools will eventually reach a higher weight (1.5) than other undergraduates (1), while health-related graduate students (other than medical and veterinary medicine students) will be assigned a lower weight (2.5) than the value they are currently assigned (5). The weights for masters' and doctoral students are unchanged, at 1 and 2.5, respectively (masters' students in self-supported programs have zero weight). Campuses with large numbers of low-income undergraduates should see relatively more funding under this model; campuses with large numbers of health science students should receive relatively less. The budget reallocation was supposed to be implemented with new funds available under the

governor's compact, so that no campus would see an actual decrease in its funding.

Campus decarbonization study. UCSB's Decarbonization Study Project Committee held a March 1 Town Hall on its [Clean Energy Master Plan](#). Engineers from the project's consulting team at Introba provided an overview of the preliminary electrification strategies being considered to achieve a 90% reduction in Scope 1 emissions from fossil gas use in campus heating and hot water systems, relative to a 2019 baseline. With this project, UCSB is in an excellent position to be a UC leader, since we already have the lowest greenhouse gas emissions of all the UC campuses, both by area and relative to our campus population. The Committee is planning to hold another Townhall later this spring to share with the campus its final recommendations related to technical plans as well as deliverables on climate resilience and climate equity. We will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Campus infrastructure projects. Planning is well underway for new undergraduate student housing. The first phase of the project is called San Benito, and it will create 2,100 new beds. The housing will be located on the site between Mesa Road and Stadium Road (originally discussed as the proposed site of the Munger Hall project). The site studies done in connection with the previous project have allowed the new project plans to proceed rapidly. San Benito is expected to be presented to the Regents in May. For more information, see the [recent article](#) in The Current.

A new infant classroom is being created at the Orfalea Family Children's Center with funding from the Chancellor, by renovating a classroom formerly used by older children. The new infant classroom is expected to open in fall, with a capacity of about 10 infants.

Negotiated salary program. Earlier this year, the Academic Senate participated in a [systemwide review](#) of Academic Personnel Manual (APM) 672, which proposed to make permanent and systemwide the Negotiated Salary Trial Program that has allowed faculty on some campuses to augment their salaries by up to 30% using non-state funds. The concerns raised included: exacerbating salary inequities; potential for distorting UC's mission; and a lack of meaningful data on implementation/impact of the trial program. Following its review of the responses from the divisions and systemwide committees, the Academic Council voted to oppose APM 672. The Council's letter of opposition to the proposed policy change, including its rationale, is available [here](#). The program is now with Provost Newman for consideration, and we await her decision.

Senior administrator searches. The Search Advisory Committee for the next Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion expects to receive candidate materials within the next few weeks and to begin virtual interviews later this month. Finalists may visit campus for in-person interviews as early as May.

The advertisement for the new Graduate Dean search has just been [released](#). The position is now called "Associate Vice Chancellor for Graduate Affairs and Anne and Michael Towbes Dean of the Graduate Division (AVC-GA/Dean)." The new classification signals the importance of this position to the future of our campus. The posting calls for the new AVC-GA/Dean to "develop and articulate a bold and forward-looking shared vision for graduate education at UCSB."

Next Faculty Legislature meeting. Our next Faculty Legislature meeting will take place on Thursday, April 25 at 3:30 p.m. The agenda will include the announcement of our 2023-24 Academic Senate award winners. All Senate members are welcome to attend, by RSVP to the email invitation that will be distributed with the agenda the week prior to the meeting.

Sincerely,
Susannah Scott
Divisional Chair, Academic Senate



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