To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

The Undergraduate Council (UgC) and its three standing committees held a total of 44 regularly scheduled 90-minute meetings during the 2008-09 academic year. Many of the Council's agenda items were delegated for preliminary review by the appropriate standing committee(s), followed by full Council review and consideration of committee recommendations.

**Purpose (per Bylaw 80):** To set standards for and policy on undergraduate education and to provide advice and consent on all matters of policy, planning, programs and practice that impact the quality and diversity of UCSB's undergraduates and their educational experiences at UCSB.

**Local Senate Business**

**Academic Program Reviews**
In cooperation with the Program Review Panel (PRP), UgC participated in the academic program reviews of the following departments and programs, some of which were begun during the 2007-08 review cycle:

- Comparative Literature
- Economics
- French and Italian
- Germanic, Slavic, and Semitic Studies
- Mathematics
- Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
- Statistics and Applied Probability (continued from 2007-08 cycle)
- Exercise and Sport Studies (continued from 2007-08 cycle)

Due to the unfavorable review of the Minor in Exercise and Sport Studies and the Administration’s inability to allocate resources to sufficiently improve the program, the Council agreed that discontinuation of the Minor during the 2009-10 academic year is a likely outcome.

In the course of its most recent review of the Department of Military Science, the Council recommended the formation of a committee of ladder faculty from other departments that would provide advice and oversight on curricular matters and appointment of instructors. In response to a request from Dean Melvin Oliver, UgC recommended a slate of faculty who might be called upon to serve on such a committee.

UgC made recommendations to the Executive Vice Chancellor regarding membership on the 2009-10 Program Review Panel and suggested departments to be reviewed during the 2010-2011 program review cycle.

**Economics Curricular Restructuring**
UgC granted preliminary approval and recommended Faculty Legislature approval of a proposal from the Department of Economics requesting establishment of a new Major in Economics and Accounting, effective Fall 2009, and discontinuation of the Major in Business Economics, effective Fall 2011.

The Council approved the discontinuation of the Emphasis in Accounting within the Major in Business Economics, effective Fall 2011. It also approved curricular changes within the Major in Economics, effective Fall 2009, but denied the Department’s request to increase the pre-major GPA requirement for the Major in Economics and the Major in Economics and Accounting from 2.85 to 3.00.

**New Linguistics Major and Minor**
The Council granted preliminary approval and recommended Faculty Legislature approval of a proposal from the Department of Linguistics to establish a new Major in Language, Culture, and Society, effective Fall 2009. The Council also approved the establishment of a new Minor in Teaching Language to Speakers of Other Languages, effective Fall 2009.
Minor in Science and Math Education
UgC approved a proposal from the Department of Education to establish a new Minor in Science and Mathematics Education, effective Spring 2009.

Computer Science Curricular Restructuring
UgC approved a proposal from the Department of Computer Science to restructure the lower-division curriculum for the BA and BS in Computer Science, effective Fall 2009.

Renaming of the Major and Minor in Women's Studies
UgC granted preliminary approval and recommended approval by the Faculty Legislature for the Department of Feminist Studies to change the names of its undergraduate programs as follows:
Major in Women's Studies changed to the Major in Feminist Studies, effective Fall 2009
Minor in Women's Studies changed to the Minor in Feminist Studies, effective Fall 2009

Increase in Unit Requirements
UgC approved a request from the College of Engineering Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) to increase the number of per-quarter units that can be completed by students in the College of Engineering from 18 to 21. Since this action required revision of Senate Regulation 150, the Council recommended the necessary revision to the Faculty Legislature. The Council also approved a request to increase the total number of units required for completion of the Major in Mechanical Engineering from 185 to 190, effective Fall 2009.

Reaccreditation Review
The Council opined on the first round of themes suggested for inclusion in the Institutional Proposal that would eventually be submitted to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) as the guiding document for UCSB's reaccreditation review. UgC also responded with several recommendations when asked to review a subsequent draft of the proposal that was ultimately submitted to WASC in May 2009. The Council found the two selected themes, Enhancing Undergraduate Education through Research and Planning for Growth and Excellence in Graduate Education to be excellent choices as both themes are strongly embedded into the core mission of the University. Given UC's uncertain budgetary outlook, however, members were concerned that our self-selected re-accreditation goals be framed in a manner that is realistic and achievable.

The campus already provides support for a wide range of activities that provide individual students with opportunities to receive faculty and/or graduate student mentoring while participating in research or creative activities. UgC strongly supports efforts to enhance these opportunities. The other avenue to be explored is the integration of research experiences into our regularly scheduled classes to the maximum extent possible. This standard is what distinguishes a research university from other institutions of higher learning, and Council members believe that every effort should be made to encourage its pursuit within curricular planning. UgC suggested that evaluation of success in this area be included as a regular component of the Academic Program Review process and that incentives be put in place to encourage instructional improvement grant proposals that specifically target this goal.

UgC acknowledges the need for the campus to develop enhanced means to assess student learning outcomes and recognizes that there are many ways to approach assessment short of employing the often resisted standardized modes. The Council recommended that all department chairs be asked to engage their faculty in developing learning outcomes specific to their respective disciplines along with methods for assessing the extent to which these outcomes are achieved.

While the theme “Planning for Growth and Excellence in Graduate Education” is somewhat outside UgC’s purview, the Council is very concerned about the impacts on both graduate and undergraduate students that are resulting from an apparently shrinking graduate student population. Although it will be especially difficult within the current budgetary situation, UgC supports the use of the WASC review as a means of addressing this situation.

Sustaining Community and Preventing Violence
When asked to review the revised policy and procedures document entitled, Sustaining Community and Preventing Violence, UgC members (along with members of other Senate Councils) voiced concerns about its
content and purpose. UgC therefore met with Campus Ombuds Pricilla Mori and Meta Clow, Campus Policy and Records Management Coordinator, to discuss the origin and intention of the document. Following this consultation, one member prepared a lengthy analysis regarding his opinion that the document had the potential to obstruct free speech. A series of further consultations resulted in several further revisions that ultimately satisfied the Undergraduate Council.

**Center for Computing Education and Diversity**
UgC endorsed a proposal from the Department of Computer Science to establish a non-ORU Center for Computing Education and Diversity. Members noted that the goals outlined in the proposal appeared to overlap with those of other campus efforts and suggested that collaborative alliances be made where possible.

**Revision of Published GE Objectives**
In an effort to better relate the objectives of the various general subject areas of UCSB’s General Education Program, the Council’s standing Committee on Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policy (CUAPP) proposed enhancements to the currently published language used to describe each of these areas. Without intending to redefine the subject areas themselves or reassign any of the courses currently designated within those areas, the proposed textual revision was aimed at providing clearer descriptions in order to assist CUAPP members when reviewing GE course proposals and to better guide department chairs and advisors in determining the best area fit for courses they wish to add to the GE Program. UgC requested endorsement of the revised wording by the L&S Faculty Executive Committee (FEC). However, the FEC was unwilling to endorse the proposed revisions and was unable to suggest alternative language by end of the 2008-09 academic year. We hope to collaborate with next year’s FEC members to put more helpful language in place.

**Revision of Engineering GE Requirements**
The Council reviewed a proposal from the College of Engineering FEC to add a foreign language option to the existing general education requirements for engineering students. The proposed change would allow them to replace three courses that would otherwise be taken in Areas D, E, F, and G with three elementary language courses. While UgC supports the goal of encouraging language training among engineering students, members felt that the proposed change would compromise other goals of the GE Program. Engineering students already have fewer GE requirements than L&S students, and the proposed change would result in an even greater discrepancy between the two sets of requirements. The FEC was therefore urged to revise and resubmit its proposal. A revised proposal has been submitted and will be reviewed in Fall 2009.

**Priority Registration for Veterans**
In response to a proposal from the Student Veterans at UCSB, UgC granted priority registration status to veterans and active duty military personnel. This action represents the first time the Council has been involved in the matter of priority registration, although this privilege has been previously granted to a variety of student groups. The Council’s response to the proposal included a request that UgC be consulted regarding any future requests of this nature.

**Protection of Student Mental Health Budget**
Based on a report from Vice Chancellor Michael Young that discusses the dramatic rise in serious mental health problems among UCSB students, and the strong recommendation of UgC’s standing Committee on Undergraduate Student Affairs, UgC urged the administration to protect funding for campus student mental health services from future budget cuts to the greatest extent possible. While recognizing the impact of the current budget crisis on the campus’ ability to carry out its academic mission, the Council is also extremely concerned about the growing number of students who have tried to harm themselves or others.

**Impacted Majors and Pre-Majors**
The Council continues to be concerned about impacted majors and various matters related to pre-majors. Options for changing the manner in which pre-majors are administered were considered, but no action was taken. A joint Administrative/Senate Committee on Curriculum and Budget has been charged with addressing problems associated with impacted majors among other issues. UgC is represented within this group and is likely to be involved with any actions it recommends.

**Systemwide Business**
UC Accountability Framework Discussion Draft
UGC reviewed the UC Accountability Framework developed by President Yudoff and found it to be a useful means of providing information about the University to California Legislators and other interested parties. Given the complexity of UC and the potential for misinterpretation, members suggested ways in which the document could be strengthened to provide a fuller institutional perspective.

UOEAP Business Plan
UGC reviewed the proposed UOEAP business plan and found the documents presented generally lacking in sufficient detail for the Council to fully understand the plan and the impact it would be likely to have on the future of the Education Abroad Program. The Council expressed several concerns and requested a more fully developed plan.

Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan
The Council endorsed President Yudoff’s Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan, which was also endorsed by its standing Committee on Admissions, Enrollment, and Relations with Schools (CAERS).

University Committee on Education Policy (UCEP)
UGC Chair Rolf Christoffersen served as UCSB’s representative on UCEP and provided regular reports to the Council regarding issues addressed by UCEP, including updates on UC budgetary matters.

In addition to its regular business, UCEP selected undergraduate research and impacted majors as special topics to be explored during the course of the 2008-09 academic year. Suggestions and comments on their experience were invited from UGC members with regard to both of these issues. A white paper discussing UCEP’s conclusions is being compiled for each of the two studies. As of the end of spring quarter both drafts were still under revision. The final products will be submitted to the Academic Council with a request that they be distributed widely.

UCEP sought input from each campus regarding its enforcement of Senate Regulation 764, which prohibits students from taking any more than 5 units of special studies courses (99, 199, etc.) per term. It was determined that this mandate is interpreted differently across the system, and that most campuses are out of compliance with respect to enforcement. UCEP considered whether the systemwide regulation should be rescinded and individual campuses allowed to regulate themselves with respect to the number of special studies courses students are allowed to complete per term. No final action was reported.

Board of Admission and Relations with Schools (BOARS)
CAERS Chair Julie Bianchini regularly attended BOARS meetings and kept CAERS and UGC members informed on systemwide issues related to admissions and eligibility. BOARS’ Proposal to Reform Freshman Eligibility Policy was adopted by the Board of Regents in February 2009, and will take effect in Fall 2012. CAERS and UGC reviewed and endorsed several revisions to the Senate Manual that were proposed by BOARS to incorporate the new eligibility policy into the Senate Regulations governing freshman admission.

UGC considered the Principles for Non-Resident Enrollment drawn up by BOARS as a means of guiding campus admissions offices in maintaining priority access for California residents while responding to budgetary pressures by admitting more out-of-state applicants. The Council generally supported the proposed principles and agreed that CAERS should explore the possibilities for attracting more out-of-state students. UCSB has never come close to surpassing the traditional non-resident enrollment target.

University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE)
Since the Committee on Committees did not appoint a representative to serve on UCOPE, UGC did not opine on any UCOPE initiatives during 2008-09.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS
Committee on Undergraduate Student Affairs (CUSA) – Francis Dunn, Chair

Throughout the year Michael Young, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (ex officio member), and Yonie Harris, Dean of Students (regular consultant), informed and advised the committee on matters pertaining to its charge. The Chair of CUSA served as UgC’s representative within several campus groups and made regular reports to the committee on their activities. He also made periodic reports to the Council on relevant issues.

The committee met with UCSB’s Mental Health Coordinator Angela Andrade for a presentation on student mental health concerns and protocols. CUSA annually assesses the effects of Halloween partying and the effectiveness of efforts to minimize harmful impacts. In connection with this effort, CUSA consulted with Residential Life Director Charlene Chew-Ogi regarding the environment in the resident halls during Halloween weekend. The committee also received a report on activities in Isla Vista from Associate Dean of Students Carolyn Buford.

CUSA met with Assistant Judicial Affairs Director Angie Tozier for an update on matters related to enforcement of Senate Regulation 90 – Student Academic Integrity. It was reported that, in spite of the mandate that all instances of academic dishonesty are to be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs, many cases go unreported. Upon CUSA’s recommendation, UgC asked the Senate Chair to send out a reminder to faculty regarding what is expected of them.

The committee met with three instructional consultants from the Office of Instructional Development to discuss matters related to the training of teaching assistants. This resulted in an effort to better use the Academic Program Review Process as a means of assessing departmental efforts to train TAs and the results of that training.

CUSA discussed concerns about whether new UCSB faculty are provided sufficient guidance upon arriving on campus to effectively respond to issues they are likely to face in the classroom. It was reported that the Student Affairs Division is given a negligible amount of time in which to present information on critical issues. In response to CUSA’s discussion, the Division of Student Affairs has organized a supplemental faculty orientation program during which important student affairs issues can now be thoroughly addressed.

CUSA reviewed nomination materials and selected one faculty and three student recipients of the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and two recipients of the Fiona Goodchild Award for Excellence as a Graduate Student Mentor of Undergraduate Research.

Committee on Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policy (CUAPP) – Davies King, Chair

CUAPP responded to the following requests as part of its regular workload:

- 34 General Education proposals, 33 of which were approved
- 180 associate appointment proposals
- 10 final exam time change requests
- 12 Extension course proposals
- 17 Extension instructor proposals
- ??? requests for establishment of new courses*
- 378 requests for modification of existing courses
- ??? requests for discontinuation of existing courses

* Accurate figures cannot be reported regarding the number of new courses or discontinuations processed due to an irregularity in the statistics recording feature of the Master Course Approval System, which was not detected until the time this report was written. An effort to acquire this information and solve the reporting problem is underway.

CUAPP conducted preliminary reviews of all proposals related to establishment, discontinuation, or modification of undergraduate academic programs and made recommendations to the Council upon completing its deliberations.
CUAPP acted on requests from several departments to increase the unit value of selected courses based on student workload. The committee also responded to requests to maintain existing unit value while replacing the discussion section with other forms of instructional activity. Such changes are prompted by loss of teaching assistants due to departmental budget cuts. Some faculty have had to request that their course no longer be eligible to fulfill the General Education Writing Requirement as a result of increasing enrollments and lack of TA support.

The committee completed an effort begun last year to formalize the longstanding requirement that some form of prerequisite be designated for all upper-division courses. This effort has resulted in the following language being added to Appendix III of the Senate Manual as a Ruling of the Undergraduate Council.

If a course has been designated as upper-division (i.e., numbered from 100 to 199), it must have one or more prerequisites. Prerequisites may include preparatory courses (with a passing grade or higher), consent of instructor or department, class level restrictions, major limitations, or minimum test scores.

Committee on Admissions, Enrollment, and Relations with Schools (CAERS) – Julie Bianchini, Chair

In addition to the regular admissions process training that CAERS members receive, some attended the training on comprehensive review that is provided to those who review application files. CAERS followed up on some of the impressions that resulted from this event and will continue to do so in the coming year.

In response to members’ concerns and suggestions for improving the overall selection process, the committee requested and reviewed numerous kinds of data and consulted with relevant staff and administrators. After reviewing academic probation and retention rates for students admitted on the basis of UCSB’s School Context criteria, the committee voted to restrict applicants with index scores below a certain level from being admitted via this pathway.

Given President Yudoff’s directive to admit more transfer students and fewer freshman than in previous years, CAERS conducted a thorough study regarding low-performing transfer students. Data provided by the Office of Institutional Planning and Research indicate that transfer students admitted with relatively low GPAs have a strong tendency to end up on academic probation. However, these low-performing students are being admitted in order to meet transfer enrollment targets. Given declining availability of academic support services as a result of continuing budget cuts, CAERS believes that this problem deserves campus-wide attention.

The committee received regular reports from Admissions Director Christine Van Gieson regarding local and systemwide admissions processing issues. Efforts are ongoing to find ways to maximize efficiencies in the application reviewing process in response to increases in the number of applications received and continually shrinking resources. CAERS is very concerned about problems related to UCSB’s ongoing over-enrollment and will continue to give serious attention to this issue in the coming year.

Undergraduate Council Members:
Walid Afifi
Charles Akemann
Hilary Berstein
Julie Bianchini
Francis Dunn
Thomas Even
Kevin Falvey
Shelly Gable
Beth Gwinn
Tania Israel
W. Davies King
James Lee
Gene Lerner
Pei-te Lien