To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

The Undergraduate Council (UgC) and its three standing committees held a total of 49 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 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 2008-09 review cycle:

- Education
- Linguistics
- Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology
- Philosophy
- Technology Management Program

Due to last year’s unfavorable review of the Minor in Exercise and Sport Studies and the campus’ inability to allocate resources to sufficiently improve the program, UgC voted to discontinue the Minor, effective October 14, 2009. The Department was advised that students who were on track to complete the program by the end of the 2009-10 academic year should be supported in doing so. In response to an appeal from the Dean of Social Sciences, the period allotted for completion was extended until the end of Spring 2011.

UgC made recommendations to the Executive Vice Chancellor regarding membership on the 2010-11 Program Review Panel and suggested departments to be reviewed during the 2011-2012 program review cycle.

General Education

UgC pre-approved and recommended Faculty Legislature approval of a proposal to add a foreign language option to the College of Engineering General Education Program, effective Winter 2010. This action included revision of Divisional Senate Regulation 205.

The Council was asked to support a proposal from the Curriculum and Budget Committee whereby all academic departments would be asked to designate each of their undergraduate courses as eligible to fulfill one of the General Subject Areas of the GE Program (a move toward what is known as a distribution model of GE). This raised numerous concerns and prompted UgC to query department chairs as to how the proposed change would impact their undergraduate programs. Upon reviewing the departmental responses, which echoed many of UgC’s concerns, the Council voted 10-1-0 against the proposed designation of all courses as GE eligible. The results of this vote and the departmental comments were forwarded to the Senate Chair at the end of spring quarter.

The Curriculum and Budget Committee’s proposal also requested the formation of a small task force to be charged with updating the existing Guide to Evaluation of Transfer Courses for General Education, which is used by the College of Letters and Science to assess course equivalencies. Two members of the Council and two members of the L&S Faculty Executive Committee completed this task, and UgC unanimously approved the revised Guidelines.
Academic Proposals

UgC coordinated the review of a proposal to establish a BS degree in Actuarial Science within the Department of Statistics and Applied Probability. Following pre-approval by UgC, the proposal was presented to the Faculty Legislature for final approval.

UgC granted preliminary approval of Dean Melvin Oliver’s proposal to discontinue the Major in Law and Society (effective Fall 2010) and endorsed his proposal to disestablish the Law and Society Program.

UgC approved departmental requests to carry out the following curricular changes, many of which were prompted by budgetary constraints (all effective Fall 2010).

1. Establishment of a common pre-major for the BS and BA degrees in Chemistry and the BS in Biochemistry
2. Substantial revision of the requirements for the BA in Art History and its Emphasis in Architecture and Environment
3. Discontinuation of the Emphasis in Art of Africa, Asia, and the Americas within the BA in Art History
4. Establishment of an Earth Science pre-major; discontinuation of the Earth and Planetary Science Emphasis within the BS in Geological Sciences; and a name change from Earth Systems Emphasis to Climate and Environment Emphasis within the BS in Geological Sciences
5. Restructuring of the requirements for the BA in Political Science and discontinuation of its International Relations Emphasis
6. Revision of the requirements for the BA in Theater and suspension of admission to it Emphases in Directing, Design, Playwriting, and Theater Studies

Classroom Scheduling Pilot Program

A pilot program changing the means by which classes across campus are scheduled was implemented for the construction of the Fall 2010 Course Schedule. Though UgC was not consulted by the Class Scheduling Study Group, it quickly became apparent through Council’s deliberation and through comments received from concerned faculty that issues of educational policy were impacted by the proposal. UgC eventually was consulted regarding continued piloting during the 2010-11 academic year and made several recommendations based on its earlier concerns, particularly that the Study Group make it explicit that participation is optional.

Reaccreditation Review

UgC commented on Accreditation Liaison Officer Michael Brown’s draft letter to WASC requesting that the campus be allowed to modify its Institutional Proposal. In response to the Council’s concerns about fully eliminating the undergraduate research theme, the wording of the remaining theme (undergraduate educational effectiveness) was changed to undergraduate educational effectiveness in a research university. A member of UgC has been appointed to serve on the subcommittee that will coordinate campus efforts with respect to this theme.

Systemwide Business

As UCSB’s representative on the Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP), UgC Chair Gerardo Aldana regularly reported to and consulted with the Council regarding issues under discussion by UCEP. Charles Akemann served on the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) and reported to both UgC and its Committee on Admissions, Enrollment, and Relations with Schools (CAERS). He sought input from CAERS in relation to several BOARS matters. Jan Frodesen represented UCSB on the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) and reported to the Council as appropriate.

Along with other Senate councils and committees, UgC responded to the following documents which were forwarded by the Academic Council for Divisional comment.

1. Report of the Undergraduate Educational Effectiveness Task Force
2. Report of the Senate Special Committee on Online and Remote Instruction and Residency
3. Final Report of the Task Force on the Education Abroad Program
4. UCPB’s Position Paper on Differential Fees
5. UCEP’s Proposal to Rescind University Senate Regulation 764
6. Proposal to Expand the Area (d) Laboratory Science Admission Requirement to Include Earth, Environmental, and Space Sciences (Delegated to CAERS)
7. Recommendations of the Working Groups formed by the UC Commission on the Future
8. Additional Recommendations that were forwarded to the UC Commission on the Future without prior Senate comment

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

In consultation with CAERS, Admissions staff made every effort to ensure that UCSB’s freshman admission target of 3900 (3550 CA residents and 350 non-residents) was not exceeded. A wait list was implemented for the first time, but due to lower than expected SIR rates, all students who agreed to take UCSB’s wait list offer were granted admission. A total of 3833 SIRs were received, including 246 from non-residents. While UCSB was the only UC to over-enroll for 2009-10, it may be the only campus to under-enroll for 2010-11. Efforts are ongoing to understand the factors that contributed to these results. Increased fees, decreased course availability, and the high cost of living in the Santa Barbara area are assumed to be among them. The average self reported GPA and SAT scores of the students who stated their intent to enroll are higher than those of last year’s incoming class, and diversity rates have remained constant.

Committee on Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policy (CUAPP) – Chaired by Davies King (Fall), Beth Gwinn (Winter), and Stuart Smith (Spring)

In addition to conducting preliminary reviews of all proposals related to the establishment, discontinuation, or modification of undergraduate academic programs, CUAPP responded to the following requests as part of its regular workload:

- 31 General Education proposals, all of which were approved
- 178 associate appointment proposals (compared to 180 in 2008-09)
- 10 final exam time change requests and 1 student complaint regarding an unapproved time change
- 10 Extension instructor proposals
- Hundreds of requests for establishment, modification, or discontinuation of courses

Committee on Undergraduate Student Affairs (CUSA) – Chaired by Gerardo Aldana

CUSA stayed informed on student affairs issues via consultation with Vice Chancellor Michael Young and Dean of Students, Yonie Harris. The Committee consulted with the Director of Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS) to assess the impact of the budget crisis on services offered by CLAS. CUSA made recommendations to UcC regarding the Policy on Involuntary Withdrawal of a Student and a proposal from Student Health Services regarding verification of student illness. The Committee also selected the recipients of the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and the Fiona Goodchild Award for Excellence as a Graduate Student Mentor of Undergraduate Research.

Undergraduate Council Members:
Charles Akemann
Ted Bennett
Hilary Bernstein
Julie Bianchini
Jordan Clark (Fall)
Thomas Even
Raya Feldman
Diana Franklin
Jan Frodesen
Shelly Gable
Beth Gwinn
Jocelyn Holland
Tania Israel
W. Davies King (Fall)
Gene Lerner
Pei-te Lien
Harold Marcuse
Cynthia Skenazi (Winter)
Stuart Smith
Li-C Wang
Charles Wolfe
Clyde Woods
Gerardo Aldana, Chair

Unit 18 Representative: Christopher Dean
Associated Students Representative: Stacy Stryker
Graduate Student Association Representative: Amy Woznick
Staff Advisor: Debra Blake