August 4, 2014

TO: Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Senate Chair

FR: Chair Naomi Tague, Faculty Executive Committee
Bren School of Environmental Science & Management

RE: FEC Report 2013-14

According to Academic Senate Divisional Bylaws and Regulations, Appendix II, D1.93, the Executive Committee of the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management is a committee of the Academic Senate authorized as an organization through which the Faculty of the School can coordinate the academic affairs of the School. The Committee reports to, and is responsible to, the Academic Senate and its officers. The Executive Committee is distinguished from Administrative committees that are created by the Administration and are responsible to, and report to, Administrative Officers.

The Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) for the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management met twelve times during the academic year. The following is a list of the major issues addressed by the FEC:

1. ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW
   a. The FEC led a day-long faculty retreat in preparation for the academic program review. The retreat was used to a) revisit Bren’s strategic plan, identify successes and issues that require attention and b) consider future directions.
   b. The FEC chair worked with Dean Gaines in planning the site visit by the external review committee (ERC).
   c. The FEC developed a set of responses to the ERC report. FEC comments were included in Dean Gaines’ response to the ERC (available on the FEC website) and were discussed with the faculty.

2. POLICY ISSUES – COMMENTS TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

The FEC reviewed and when necessary offered comments on the following issues:

a. APM 600, Final Systemwide Review;
b. Senate Bylaw 55, Systemwide Review;

c. Proposed revisions to "Campus Procedures for Enforcement of the Faculty Code of Conduct";

d. Proposed revisions to Sections 025, 670 and 671 of the Academic Personnel Manual;

e. Copyright and Fair Use Policy;

f. UCSB Extension Initiative and International Agreements: The Bren School FEC expressed concerns about the impact of Open University students on Bren courses and proposed some refinements to the process through which Open University students are enrolled and handled. Details of this response were submitted to the Academic Senate.

g. Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition;

h. Five year campus planning perspective

3. REVIEW OF COMPUTING PRIORITIES

FEC in conjunction with Chair of the Computing Committee (James Frew) undertook a review of computing priorities to identify issues between faculty and IT group perspectives and make necessary updates. A revised list of priorities is now available on the internal FEC website and has been discussed with the faculty (at the last meeting of the Spring quarter) and IT personnel. The FEC will continue to obtain feedback on revised priorities during the coming year.

4. ETHICS

FEC discussed academic integrity issues and in particular procedures used to handle suspected plagiarism (details are in meeting minutes). The Committee agreed to support increased education of students on ethical issues in research and publishing.

5. BREN STAFF SUPPORT

FEC discussed how to improve faculty user satisfaction with Bren staff support. Recommendations included revising use of aliases for support requests and new organizational charts to communicated responsibilities (made available on the web). FEC also discussed procedures for handling issues that arise in specific staff support areas.

6. BREN DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Andrew Krupa (development officer) and Dean Gaines presented the current development strategy to the FEC. The FEC provided feedback and suggestions on current development priorities and strategy. The FEC also discussed strategies to
utilize next year’s Bren reunion event as a springboard for new development related initiatives.

7. FACULTY MENTORING

FEC updated the current faculty mentoring plan in response to concerns expressed by junior faculty (and later in the year by the ERC review). The revised plan was developed in consultation with the faculty and presented at a faculty meeting. The new plan is available on the FEC website.

8. STUDENT REPRESENTATION IN BREN SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

The FEC formalized the student representation in Bren governance in by-laws and provided this to Faculty Senate Chair. The formalized student governance approach was discussed with and approved by the faculty. Details are available on the FEC website.

9. REVIEW OF BREN DISTINGUISHED VISITOR PROGRAM

FEC reviewed and approved the use of Bren Honorarium funds for 6 distinguished visitors who provide teaching / short course contributions to the Bren curriculum.

10. BUDGET REVIEW

The FEC conducted a review of the Bren School’s budget, presented by the Bren Business officer.

11. FTP PLANNING

FEC led and documented this year’s FTE planning process. FTE Planning report is available on FEC website.

12. ELECTION OF NEW FEC MEMBERS FOR 2014-15

The FEC conducted a secret ballot of the faculty to elect new members for next year.

Members of the Faculty Executive Committee

Christina (Naomi) Tague, Chair
Patricia Holden
John Melack
Sangwon Suh
Steven Gaines (ex officio)