To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

**Executive Summary**

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, and practice that impact the quality of undergraduate programs and undergraduate students’ educational experiences at UCSB.

**Issues of General Concern to Faculty:**

- The Undergraduate Council (UgC) began operating under its new structure as of Fall 2014 and found that the reorganization successfully resolved the concerns it was designed to address.

- UgC acted on 24 academic proposals involving the establishment, discontinuation, or curricular modification of undergraduate programs. Consideration of programmatic learning outcomes has been incorporated into the review process.

UgC held 15 regularly scheduled 90-minute meetings during the 2013-14 academic year and consulted with relevant Senate committees, academic deans, and other campus administrators on numerous issues.

**Local Business**

**Academic Program Reviews**

In cooperation with the Program Review Panel, UgC participated in the academic program reviews of the following academic units.

1. Classics
2. Feminist Studies
3. Materials

UgC responded to requests from the Interim Executive Vice Chancellor regarding membership on the Program Review Panel and departments to be reviewed during the 2015-16 program review cycle.

**Academic Proposals**

UgC granted preliminary approval and recommended Faculty Legislature approval of the following actions.

1. establishment of a 5-year combined program for BS and MS degrees in Mechanical Engineering (joint review with Graduate Council)
2. discontinuation of the BS in Economics/Mathematics, effective Fall 2015
3. renaming of the BA in Art History to BA in History of Art and Architecture, effective Fall 2014
4. renaming of the BA in Music to BA in Music Studies, effective Fall 2014
UgC granted final approval of the following actions.
1. suspension of admissions to the CCS Literature Major, effective February 28, 2014 – an appeal to rescind this action was made to the Faculty Legislature, but the Legislature voted in favor of upholding UgC’s decision
2. suspension of admissions to the BA in Economics/Mathematics, effective June 12, 2015
3. establishment of an Emphasis in Museum Studies within the BA in History of Art and Architecture, effective Fall 2014
4. discontinuation of the Public Service Emphasis within the BA in Political Science, effective June 30, 2014
5. establishment of a Minor in Applied Psychology, effective Fall 2014
6. discontinuation of the Applied Psychology Track within the Minor in Education and Applied Psychology, effective Fall 2014
7. renaming of the Minor in Education and Applied Psychology to Minor in Education, effective Fall 2014
8. renaming of the Minor in Art History to Minor in History of Art and Architecture, effective Fall 2014
9. revision of requirements for completion of the following undergraduate programs, effective Fall 2014:
   - BA in Asian American Studies
   - BA in Asian Studies
   - BA and Minor in Black Studies
   - BA in German
   - BA in History
   - BA in History of Public Policy
   - BA in Music
   - BM in Music
   - BA in Political Science
   - BA and Minor in Theater
   - Minor in Theater Production and Design
10. revision of requirements for the Earth Science Pre-Major, effective Fall 2014
11. revision of learning outcomes for the BS in Mechanical Engineering

UgC reviewed a revised proposal to establish a Student Initiated Democratic Education (SIDE) Program at UCSB. During its review of an earlier version of this proposal, members identified numerous concerns, many of which were not resolved in the revised proposal. UgC was therefore unable to support the establishment of a SIDE Program at this time. However, two UgC members offered to work with the students who submitted this proposal to consider alternative approaches to achieving at least some of its goals.

Other campus proposals and initiatives

Along with other Senate groups, UgC responded to the Senate Chair regarding a wide variety of campus matters. Brief comments on some of these are included below.

Report of the Task Force on Utilizing Technology to Enhance Student Learning

UgC underscored the following findings: that online courses will most likely find the greatest success with more mature learners at the upper division level; that fully online courses are not a solution to the oversubscription of introductory courses for first year students; that MOOCs are not consistent with achieving departmental or general education learning outcomes at UCSB; and that there is no evidence that fully online course offerings will reduce costs. UgC members asserted that there is a
need for ongoing and robust assessment of the effectiveness of online and hybrid courses, as compared to conventional offerings. It was also noted that there is only limited access to technical support services at UCSB for the creation and maintenance of online courses or hybrid courses. UgC therefore recommended better coordination and collaboration across disciplines with respect to the implementation of available technologies.

Online ESCI Pilot Program

Although comments were not formally requested, UgC shared several concerns with the Senate Chair regarding the Online ESCI Pilot Program and ongoing plans for campuswide implementation of online-only collection of ESCI evaluations. Piloting this new method has so far resulted in a significant decline in the number of course evaluations submitted by students. UgC is particularly concerned that this will have a negative effect on the reliability and usefulness of the information collected. The Council therefore requested further Senate review of the necessity, value, and likely effects of the planned transition. UgC also recommended that termination of this initiative and a return to scanned paper ESCIs administered in class be strongly considered as a viable option unless a far more compelling and convincing case for the proposed change can be made than the evidence presented in the current report.

UCSB Extension Initiatives and International Agreements

UgC members agreed with Interim EVC Joel Michaelsen’s affirmation that “the entire campus will benefit from fruitful campus collaborations between and among the Senate, Extension, and campus programs.” However, they expressed strong reservations toward policy or practice that allows any entity other than campus academic departments or college deans to initiate agreements affecting the enrollment of non-matriculated students in regular UCSB courses. Faculty were curious to know more about how revenues are shared between academic departments and Extension and voiced concerns about the potential for conflict of interest that might result from this resource opportunity. It was also asserted that a disproportionate amount of time is often required to explain course material to Extension students who lack adequate preparation.

Proposed Job Description for a New AVC Position

UgC responded to the proposed job description for the position of Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education and L&S Dean of Undergraduate Education. Members welcomed the idea of unifying various agencies involved in undergraduate education in a single unit with clearer and more forceful leadership. They also applauded the plan for a new Deans Council as a step toward increasing communication and coordination among these key administrators. However, members from all three undergraduate colleges questioned the wisdom of uniting the roles of the AVC and the L&S Dean of Undergraduate Education in one person. Of particular concern was the potential for actual or perceived conflict of interest and the possibility of disadvantaging CCS and COE in relation to L&S. Some asserted that the position should not be limited to faculty from L&S, which would inevitably be the case if the two roles were joined in one person.

Student Affairs

UgC’s recent reorganization involved the dismantling of the Council’s former standing committee structure and a redistribution of certain tasks among newly formed stand-alone committees. The duties of the former Committee on Undergraduate Student Affairs (CUSA) remained within the charge of the Undergraduate Council. UgC met with a team of representatives assembled by Vice Chancellor Michael Young in order to learn more about the most prominent student affairs issues. VC Young and
his staff were invited to seek consultation with the Council regarding any matters on which faculty consultation would be helpful and/or appropriate.

In response to comments voiced by members of various academic and administrative units regarding the challenges associated with increased enrollment of international students, UgC’s Chair met with the Senate Chair to suggest collective efforts aimed at enhancing communication and coordination among the various campus entities that admit, house, and provide support services for international students. Steps have been taken toward planning a joint Senate/Administration sponsored luncheon meeting for this purpose.

Following the devastating events that took place in Isla Vista last spring, UgC’s Chair reached out to VC Young to affirm the Council’s desire and availability to assist in any way deemed appropriate. Members reassessed UgC’s role in student affairs matters and brainstormed on how the Council might contribute to the overall campus response. Thus far, no specific involvement on the part of UgC has been requested from the Senate leadership or the Administration.

A select group of UgC’s members reviewed nomination files and chose 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.

Systemwide Business

As UCSB’s representative on the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP), UgC Chair Ann Plane regularly reported to and consulted with the Council regarding issues under discussion by UCEP.

Linda Adler-Kassner represented UCSB on the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) and reported to the Council on items addressed by the committee.

Along with other Senate councils and committees, UgC responded to the following systemwide issues:

1. Self Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs Policy
2. Proposed revisions to Bylaw 55
3. Compendium revision
4. UCSB Articulation of online courses offered by other UC’s via the Innovative Learning Technology Initiative (ILTI)

Undergraduate Council Members:

Linda Adler-Kassner
William Ashby
David Cleveland
Phillip Conrad
Dorota Dutch
Ruth Hellier-Tinoco
Phillip Lubin
Daniel Montello
Norbert Reich
Richard Startz
Douglas Thrower
Ann Plane, Chair
Non-Senate Academic Representative: Dorothy Mullin
Associated Students Representative: Jonathan Abboud
Graduate Student Association Representative: Jaycee Bingham

Advisor: Debra Blake