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) repeatedly registered its concerns with administrators regarding the effects of significantly increasing undergraduate enrollment on the quality of undergraduate education, particularly within historically and more recently impacted departments.

- In response to recurring complaints about cheating and plagiarism, UgC assessed data pertaining to academic misconduct over the past three years and offered recommendations to staff in the Office of Judicial Affairs and the Office of International Students and Scholars.

- UgC played a key role in addressing several of the Budget Framework Initiatives that resulted from President Napolitano’s negotiations with Governor Brown.

UgC held 16 regularly scheduled 90-minute meetings and consulted with relevant Senate committees and campus administrators regarding topics of concern within its purview.

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. Electrical and Computer Engineering
2. Geography
3. History of Art and Architecture
4. Political Science
5. Spanish and Portuguese

UgC responded to requests from the Executive Vice Chancellor regarding membership on the Program Review Panel and departments to be reviewed during the 2017-18 program review cycle.

Academic Proposals
UgC granted final approval for the following actions, effective Fall 2016:

1. Establishment of a Minor in Speech Technologies in the Department of Linguistics
2. Establishment of an Emphasis in Speech Technologies within the BA in Linguistics
3. Establishment of a Minor in Translation Studies within the Comparative Literature Program
4. Restructuring of the Science and Mathematics Education Minor
5. Revision of the program learning outcomes for Area E (Culture and Thought) of the General Education Program
6. Revision of the program learning outcomes for the BS and BA in Physics
7. Revision of curricular requirements for completion of the following undergraduate degree programs:
   - BS in Chemical Engineering
   - BS in Electrical Engineering
   - BS in Computer Science
   - BS in Physical Geography
   - BS and BA in Earth Science
   - BA in Geography
   - BA in Classics
   - BA in Music Studies
   - BA in Middle East Studies
   - BA in Linguistics
   - BA in Theater
   - BA in German
   - BA in Spanish
   - Minor in Spanish
   - Minor in Education
   - Minor in Art
   - Pre-Major for the Biological Sciences

Several of the curricular change proposals were prompted by a Budget Framework Initiative mandating the review of undergraduate degree programs for assessment of whether the number of required upper-division units could be reduced to 45 or fewer. Many departments had already met this standard; some welcomed the opportunity to reduce the required coursework for their majors; and others declined to propose any changes. Departments that declined to reduce upper-division units to 45 or below were obliged to provide a compelling rationale for maintaining their existing unit counts.

UgC reviewed proposals requesting the establishment of two additional minors, but found these proposals to be incomplete. The proposing departments were asked to resubmit revised proposals to the L&S Faculty Executive Committee in the coming year.

Other Campus Initiatives
UgC considered many local campus matters related to undergraduate education. Comments on some of these are provided below.

Enrollment Management
UgC considered the various ways in which departments attempt to manage enrollment and control entrance to their majors. Given the wide spectrum of special arrangements that have been approved
over the years, inequities were observed in the level of restrictiveness that departments have been allowed to apply. Concerns were raised about the absence of timely and effective exit strategies for students who are not succeeding in their chosen pre-major. This has resulted in the proliferation of students who end up with few or no options for graduation success. UgC members reviewed a lengthy memo regarding enrollment concerns that was prepared for the EVC and Senate Chair by the Committee on Admissions, Enrollment and Relations with Schools. The Council hopes to see more proactive involvement on behalf of the administration with regard to concerns raised in the memo.

**Online Delivery of ESCI Evaluations**
UgC met with Instructional Development Director George Michaels for an update on efforts to transition all departments to the use of online ESCI delivery. On multiple occasions, UgC has voiced concerns about marked declines in the number of evaluations received in instances where the only option is to submit online. Given the role that ESCIs play in merit and promotion reviews, particularly for those in the LSOE/PSOE series, UgC has questioned whether the efficiencies gained by moving the course evaluation process online constitute a worthy trade for a significant reduction in assessment data. Director Michaels acknowledged that consultation regarding this shift had not been optimal and he reported that his office was not currently moving forward with the previously planned campuswide transition. UgC was later informed that any department wishing to commence online delivery would be allowed to do so.

**Academic Integrity**
UgC invited a briefing by Judicial Affairs Director Sandy Vasquez and Associate Dean Suzanne Perkin regarding recent trends among undergraduates with regard to academic integrity. Director Vasquez will be developing new materials to better educate students regarding UCSB policy in this area. UgC subsequently forwarded a memo to the Office of International Students and Scholars encouraging increased collaboration with the Office of Judicial Affairs regarding academic integrity concerns among international students.

**Faculty and International Students**
UgC discussed challenges faced by faculty in dealing with the growing population of international undergraduates and the need for faculty to be better informed regarding academic and social concerns related to these students. UgC was represented at a Senate-sponsored workshop focused on this issue. The guest speakers provided many suggestions which will be summarized into a set of publicly available guidelines for faculty.

**Simultaneous Enrollment Minimum Units Proposal**
UgC endorsed the Registrar’s proposal to revise to the campus policy pertaining to Simultaneous Enrollment, such that matriculated students would be required to enroll in a minimum of 12 units at UCSB in order to be eligible to enroll in an additional course offered by another UC campus.

**Undergraduate Research Awards**
A select group of UgC members reviewed nomination materials and chose three student recipients of the **Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research.**
Systemwide Business

As UCSB’s representative on the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP), Jeffrey Stopple reported to and consulted with the Council regarding issues under discussion by UCEP.

Benjamin Brecher 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, members of UgC were invited to review materials pertaining to the following systemwide issues:

- Proposed Revised Presidential Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment
- Report of the Joint Committee of the Administration and Academic Senate; Faculty Discipline in Relation to Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment
- Report on Re-examination of Alternative Credit – Advanced Placement Exams
- Guiding Principles: Search Waivers for Academic Appointees at the University of California
- Best Practices for Diversifying the UC Faculty
- Retirement Options Task Force Report

Undergraduate Council Members:
Debra Blumenthal
Benjamin Brecher
Thomas Carlson
Phillip Conrad
Kip Fulbeck
Phillip Gans
Jocelyn Holland
John Latto (W,S)
Everett Lipman
Fernando Lopez-Alvez
Christopher Ograin
David Paul
Sumita Pennathur
Matthew Quirk
Norbert Reich
Yuan-fang Wang
Stephan Miescher, Vice Chair
Jeffrey Stopple, Chair

Non-Senate Academic Representative: Dorothy Mullin
Advisor: Debra Blake