



Notes From the Academic Senate Chair George Blumenthal

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Dear Colleagues – Please join me in congratulating members of the Academic Assembly for a job well done! In spite of an unusually full agenda of potentially controversial issues, the Assembly successfully completed its business in two teleconference meetings and a [final face-to-face meeting](#), held in mid-May at the UCB campus, during which the Assembly completed six action items. Without doubt, the most historically significant item of business for the year was the Assembly's consideration of [a proposal](#) from the UC Merced faculty to establish a Merced Division of the Academic Senate. By a unanimous vote at its May 11 meeting, the Assembly approved the birth of this division once the Academic Council certifies that there is a plan in place to adequately fund the UCM division. (See our featured article.) We look forward to welcoming our UCM colleagues as equal partners in the work of the Senate.

Except for a change in title, I am pleased to report that the Assembly adopted the [Resolution on Research Funding Sources](#), which was approved by the Academic Council in April 2005. This concludes an almost two-year long engagement with the issue of restrictions on research awards. The Assembly resolution clarifies that no unit within the University may deny, based solely upon the source of funding, a faculty member's right to accept a research award. Only The Board of Regents has the authority to establish policies on the acceptance of research funding. I have asked President Dynes to distribute the resolution to campus chancellors and forward it, as an informational item, to The Regents.

There has been considerable interest on the part of state legislators for UC to facilitate the transfer process for community college students and to make the process more transparent. At the May meeting, the Assembly approved two major pieces of legislation intended to do just that.

Currently, each UC campus must individually determine whether every California Community College (CCC) course can be articulated (accepted for transfer credit) for a major. [Senate Regulation 477](#) is a new regulation, which stipulates that when four or more UC Senate Divisions articulate a course or lower division sequence of courses for major preparation, those course(s) will be automatically articulated at all other UC campuses, unless a

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ASSEMBLY TO MERCED FACULTY: “YOU’RE READY!”

As the applause of the Academic Assembly members gathered at UCB's Clark Kerr campus died down, Senate Chair George Blumenthal called it an “historic moment.” UC Merced, the first Academic Senate Division to form at UC in more than thirty years, had just been given the go-ahead in a unanimous vote, pending the Academic Council's approval of a funding plan for UCM's senate operations.

The May 11 vote was the culmination of several years of hard work by faculty, administrators and staff at Merced and across the UC system to lay the groundwork for a new division that now seems more than ready to independently carry out the duties of shared governance.

Shawn Kantor, who chairs both the Academic Assembly's Task Force on UC Merced and UCM's proto-division, said the UCM Senate would benefit from a dedicated and enthusiastic young faculty who will continue to work to establish a strong, shared governance relationship with the administration. “I think we've been very effective in asserting our voice at the higher university level, so we just need to continue on with the successes we've established this year. One of the main tasks next year will be to establish shared governance in our Schools.”

The senate committees currently functioning under the auspices of the UCM Task Force – Undergraduate Council, Graduate and Research Council, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation, and Committee on Committees – will begin to function independently. The Committee on Academic Personnel, with about half of its faculty roster drawn from other UC campuses, is a special case that will benefit from a more gradual transition to a UCM-only membership.

The tenth UC senate division faces many challenges including its size and lack of experience with shared governance. Of the approximately 64 senate members who are expected on campus by opening day this fall, few will be senior faculty or faculty with UC and shared governance experience. In addition, Merced faculty will soon have a full array of teaching, research, and service responsibilities to contend with.

But, Professor Kantor noted that the faculty are ready for the challenge. “We are grateful for the systemwide support that we have received and are trying to make our senate an efficient and effective independent operation.”

Merced's founding faculty have had the unique opportunity to help define the philosophical, academic and research direction of the first research university built in the 21st century. So, for many of us, the committee work that goes along with divisional status is well worth the effort.

“We're creating all the programs and courses, we're hiring all of our colleagues – it's just a wonderful opportunity. I think we have had a huge impact on the cultural direction of the campus,” said Professor Kantor.

Professor Kantor said it has been an “amazing honor” serving as the proto-divisional chair during Merced's transition to divisional status. “Stepping into my job as senate chair with a more or less blank slate and a very loose notion on the ground of shared governance, helping to create an effective organization that takes shared governance seriously, and hopefully setting the stage for future successes at both UCM and the Senate, has been incredibly satisfying.”

-Michael LaBriola



Statewide Academic Senate Chair
George Blumenthal congratulates UCM
Professor Shawn Kantor (right).

department specifically elects to opt out of the agreement. This regulation will lessen the burden on departments willing to accept the articulation agreements worked out by similar departments at other UC campuses and will hopefully simplify the transfer process for students coming to UC. I should note that this legislation in no way requires departments to align their lower division requirements with those of other UC campuses since there are educationally sound reasons why some majors and their requirements vary from campus to campus.

In a second action, the Assembly amended [Senate Regulation 478](#), which currently allows junior transfers to satisfy any UC general education requirement by taking a set of community college courses called the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC). This amendment allows students in the physical and biological sciences, with their heavier lower division major course load, to defer two of their IGETC courses until after transfer, something that is currently permitted only in hardship cases. Because campuses will need to provide additional counseling services to successfully implement the amendment, the Academic Council approved this proposal only after receiving assurances from the Provost that funds for the additional counseling would be available. Beginning with students transferring to UC in Fall 2006, science students should find it easier to complete their lower division major courses prior to transfer. The program could have the added benefit of helping UC reach its ambitious goal of producing 1,000 science and math teachers annually by the year 2010 through its new [California Science and Math Initiative](#), which will be launched this fall.

The modified IGETC regulation is just one result of an on-going effort by faculty from the three segments of the California public higher education system to facilitate student transfer. This year, the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) undertook a review, from a purely faculty perspective, of all intersegmental transfer programs to evaluate

-click [here](#) to continue

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Your comments are welcome. Send to: senatenews@ucop.edu

BOARS' CHAIR SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Michael T. Brown, Chair of the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), raises serious concerns about the National Merit Scholarship Program and questions whether UC should continue to participate. [Click here for full article.](#)

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

The Senate has joined the administration in opposing the following three bills. Here is an update on their status.

[SB 5](#) calling for the adoption of a "Student Bill of Rights" failed to make passage in the first policy committee and is considered dead.

[SB 724](#) authorizing CSU to offer doctoral degrees in selected professional fields passed the Senate in a 34 to 3 vote and is headed to a hearing in the Assembly Higher Education Committee, which could occur as early as July 5.

[SB 780](#) requesting UC medical schools to consider specified criteria in their review of applicants was passed by the Senate and is now in the Assembly.

APPOINTMENT/PROMOTION APMS MODIFIED

The University Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity (UCAAD) initiated changes to the APMS governing appointment and promotion to better reflect UC's commitment to diversity and equal opportunity. The revised policies will become effective July 1, 2005. To learn more about these changes, click [here](#).

UPDATES and EVENTS

► The Assembly of the Academic Senate approved the following items at its [May 11, 2005 meeting](#):

•UCSF Professor Ruth Greenblatt's nomination as the 2005/06 Vice-Chair of the University Committee on Committees

•[UC Merced's proposal for divisional status](#) (pending Academic Council's certification of operating funds)

•Amendment to [SB 128](#) on committee membership. See new provision "I"

•Amendment to [SR 600B](#) on conferral of graduate degrees to campus faculty colleagues

•[New SR 477](#) on articulation agreements

•Amendment to [SR 478](#) on Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)

•[Academic Council's Resolution on Research Funding Sources](#)

► President Dynes' [Report to the Assembly](#)

► The Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates' (ICAS) May 2005 [Transfer Discussion Document](#)

► [Academic Council's action on Assembly Bill 992](#)—electronic surveillance

► [University Librarians' message to faculty](#) concerning UC's e-reserve policy.

► Recordkeeping services for the DC and 403(b) Plans are being transitioned to Fidelity Investments Services. [What you should know about this change.](#)

► A one-time [Supplemental Disability Plan](#) option will be offered in November's Open Enrollment.

► The Northern California Education Recruitment Consortium ([HERC](#)) is a useful resource for UC faculty.

Under Senate Review

Unless otherwise noted, send comments to your [Divisional Chair](#) or relevant [Divisional Committee](#). Response date for divisions follows listing. [Click here](#) for a comprehensive list of items currently under review.

► [UCAP's Proposed Modifications to APM 220-18](#): Step VI Review Criteria (6/10/05)

► [Proposed Policy on University Management of Health, Safety and the Environment and draft Guidance on Implementation](#) (6/30/05)

► [Draft Policy on Human Subject Injury and draft Guidance on Implementation](#) (6/10/05)