



Notes From the Academic Senate Chair George Blumenthal

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Dear Colleagues – As we begin this academic year, I want to thank those of you who have been willing to devote some of your valuable time, both at the campus and systemwide levels, to the important issues facing the University of California. Your continued involvement is crucial if the Senate is to successfully fulfill its responsibility to shared governance. At the systemwide level, I am pleased to report that the senate leadership has forged a positive and productive relationship with the new UC president and provost, and I believe that shared governance at UC has never been stronger.

As you are well aware, UC's budget was cut again this year, but if our [compact](#) with the governor holds, next year UC will see a 3% augmentation to its operating budget and, for the first time, student fee increases will actually remain with the University. Those fee increases will be 8% for undergraduates and 10% for graduate students, with much of this money returned in student aid and with a substantial amount earmarked for graduate students. Funding will also be provided for an additional 5000 students. Most of the budgetary increase will go toward faculty and staff salaries and benefits. Making progress in restoring faculty salaries is of critical importance if UC is to maintain a competitive edge in attracting and retaining our outstanding faculty.

Since faculty retention is also closely tied to the quality of our graduate programs, funding for graduate education is another critical issue. The current fee structure is eroding UC's ability to attract the best and the brightest graduate students from both outside the U.S. and from other states. If this situation is allowed to continue, UC's research mission will be irreparably harmed. We need to make a convincing case to legislators and the public that first class graduate education is a key to California's economy and is essential if UC is to remain competitive with the world's finest institutions. This is a top priority for the Academic Senate this year.

As has been widely reported in the press, at their September meeting, the [Regents voted](#) by a margin of 2 to 1 to raise the minimum GPA required for UC eligibility from 2.8 to 3.0, effective for frosh entering in Fall 2007. However, because there will be a new SAT I exam in place next year, and because UC applicants will face different achievement test requirements, the Senate's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) plans to review and evaluate the tests and may

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Blumenthal, Brunk Assume Top UC Senate Posts

On September 1, two highly respected UC faculty members stepped into the Senate's top posts for 2004-05. George Blumenthal, Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at UC Santa Cruz, assumed the Chair of the Systemwide Academic Senate, and Clifford Brunk, Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology at UCLA, became the Senate Vice Chair. Blumenthal and Brunk will serve as the Faculty Representatives to the UC Board of Regents throughout the year. Both bring a wealth of past Senate experience to their new leadership roles.



04-05 Council Chair George Blumenthal (right) and Vice Chair Clifford Brunk

[Professor Blumenthal's](#) engagement with the UC Senate has a long history, having begun when he was an assistant professor at Santa Cruz where he eventually became the divisional chair. At the systemwide level, Professor Blumenthal has played a key role in a number of Senate significant efforts. As Chair of the University Committee on Privilege and Tenure, he was the architect of extensive revisions to the Senate Bylaws dealing with grievances, early termination and disciplinary cases, and as Chair of the Academic Council ad hoc Committee on the Bylaws, he led to completion the long-term and sizable task of updating and amending the Senate bylaws. Blumenthal also worked closely on the 2003 revisions to the Faculty Code of Conduct, and as Chair of the Academic Council Special Committee on the National Labs ([ACSCONL](#)), was responsible for reporting to the Regents on the Senate's activities and position regarding UC's relationship with the labs, coordinated the development and implementation of a university-wide survey of senate faculty on the question of whether UC should continue management of the labs, and oversaw the creation of an accompanying set of educational [white papers](#).

[Professor Brunk](#) has served on a number of local and universitywide senate committees and most recently as Chair of the UCLA division. In addition to his other duties as Council Vice Chair this year, he will also be heading up the Academic Council Special Committee on the National Labs and will be the Senate's point person in regard to transfer and articulation issues among UC, CSU and the California Community Colleges.

As central items for the year ahead, Chair Blumenthal cites support for graduate education; the research environment; the current university-wide long-range planning effort; full launching of UC Merced; and undergraduate admissions and transfer issues. Looking to the future of the Academic Senate as well, he sees communications technology enabling more efficient meeting styles and more thorough participation among all Senate bodies, especially the Assembly. In fact, the relative roles of the Academic Council and the Assembly may, he believes, arise as an important item for long-range planning for the Senate itself.

The new Chair and Vice Chair note a positive trend in the overall health of shared governance on UC's campuses and university-wide, evidenced by more effective interactions between faculty and administration. At the Systemwide Senate office, the Senate leaders enjoy a high degree of interaction with the administration, and the Chair regularly participates in the President's cabinet and in the President's meetings at which the Regents' agendas are set. Both Blumenthal and Brunk look forward to a vital year of productive relations with UC's senior management and with the Regents.

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return with revised proposals regarding eligibility by 2006. BOARS has nearly completed a report on admissions by exception. (Regental policy allows 6% of our admitted freshman to be admitted by exception, but systemwide only 2% of our students are currently admitted through this path.) BOARS has also recently looked at the appropriateness of using geographical preferences as a factor for admission to any UC campus. In addition, BOARS is doing some long range planning regarding how we should be admitting students to UC.

Finally, I want to mention that the systemwide senate leadership decided late last spring that the Academic Senate would be better served if the Chair and Vice Chair were to become more proactive in shaping UC's policy positions on pending state and federal legislation. Because of the many bills affecting faculty and curricula that were introduced last year, we felt that UC's policy positions should rightfully reflect the faculty's perspective. We will also be making ourselves more available to participate in legislative hearings, and strategizing with our CCC and CSU colleagues on legislative issues of mutual interest and concern. One of my goals for this year will be to encourage campus senate leaders to begin forging a relationship with their local legislative representatives, so that the faculty voice is heard more clearly in Sacramento. To keep you informed of activities in this arena, beginning with this issue, the *Senate Source* will include an update on legislative issues as a regular feature.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Have a great year!

-George Blumenthal

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UPDATES AND EVENTS

- ▶ **The Assembly of the Academic Senate** will meet on Wednesday November 10, 2004 by teleconference. The full [Assembly agenda](#) is posted on the Senate website.
- ▶ **Recruitment for UC Washington Center Director now underway.** Applications are available at <http://jobs.ucop.edu>. If you have questions, please contact Julie Gordon, Director of Inter-campus Program Coordination in the Office of the President at julie.gordon@ucop.edu.
- ▶ **New Directors Appointed to Education Abroad Study Centers.** Associate Provost and Universitywide EAP Director John Marcum is pleased to announce [five new faculty appointments](#) as a result of the 2004 recruitment cycle.
- ▶ **UCEAP Study Center Directorship Recruitment.** Applications now being accepted for 18 directorship openings in sixteen countries. See the [UCEAP recruitment web page](#) for details.
- ▶ **Update on AY 03-04 Senate Business.** Please see the [Senate website](#) for a full listing of the items finalized in June and July by the 2003-04 Academic Council.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

The following two bills were recently signed by the Governor:

[Senate Bill 1415](#) on a course numbering system provides that not later than June 1, 2006, each CCC and CSU campus adopt and UC campuses are encouraged to adopt, a common course numbering system for their highest-demand majors to help students successfully transfer from a CCC to a CSU or UC without having to repeat courses in preparation for a major. The Systemwide Academic Senate was in support of this legislation because it believes that UC should be moving forward on making existing articulation programs more transparent and effective. The Senate leadership will continue to work with the CCC and CSU Senates on articulation issues.

[Assembly Bill 2477](#) on the production and pricing of textbooks is intended to hold down the cost of college textbooks. One of the bill's recommendations is that faculty should be *encouraged* to consider cost as one of the criteria when selecting textbooks for their courses.

FACULTY REPRESENTATION ON THE BOARD OF REGENTS

Each fall, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Academic Council brief Council members on their role as Faculty Representatives on the Board of Regents. The issue is revisited again in the spring to assess the effectiveness of faculty engagement with the Regents in decision-making.

As Faculty Representatives to the Regents, the Council Chair and Vice Chair do not have voting rights, but do enjoy a significant degree of access to regental business. A series of changes in policy and practice over the years has progressively strengthened the role of the faculty on the Regents and, as a result, the Chair and Vice Chair attend all Regents' committee meetings as active discussants, presenters and formal advisors, and participate as well in the Regents' critical long-range planning meetings. In addition, the Senate Chair is invited to make a regular formal report to the Regents at meetings of the Committee of the Whole.

It used to be that Senate representatives attended Regents meetings as observers, in a role similar to that of senior administrators. Then in 1974, California's Constitution was amended ([Article IX, Section 9](#)), to allow the Regents, at their discretion, ([more](#))

UNDER SENATE REVIEW

Unless otherwise noted, send comments to your [Divisional Chair](#) or relevant [Divisional Committee](#). Response date for comments from divisions follows listing.

- ▶ [Proposed Recommendations for Guidelines and Procedures Governing the Academic Senate's Role in the Development of a New UC Campus and for Granting Divisional Status to a New Campus](#) (11/10/04)
- ▶ [Proposed Science Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum](#) (SCIGETC) (1/14/05)
- ▶ Report: [Strategic Directions for Libraries & Scholarly Information at UC](#) (1/12/05)
- ▶ [Proposal to Streamline Course Major Articulation between the UC Campuses and the California Community Colleges](#) (2/10/05)
- ▶ [Proposed Amendment to Senate Bylaw 336.B - Pre-hearing Procedure in Disciplinary Cases](#) (2/12/05)

[Click here](#) for a comprehensive list of items currently under review.