



Notes from the Academic Senate Chair

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Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to update you on some of the current activities of the systemwide Academic Senate. The Senate's Academic Advisory Committee continues to be engaged in the presidential search process in a way that is consistent with its historical role. UC faculty care deeply about who the next UC president will be and are optimistic that he or she will be a stabilizing force for a university facing turbulent times. The Advisory Committee also feels strongly that the new president must be a distinguished academic who has demonstrated the ability to effectively manage a large, complex, public, research university. Vice Chair Croughan and I have been working hard to maximize the input of the faculty and to communicate the appropriate role of the Senate in the search. Although we have experienced some process-related bumps and frustrations along the way, we are moving forward with a common purpose and sense of urgency.

A few other issues complicate the search. The Office of the President restructuring creates uncertainty about UCOP's ability to help the next president support the campuses as well as potential initiatives. Though I support UCOP's efforts to re-envision its role in governance, I worry about damaging UCOP's ability to support the University's academic mission. We should all carefully monitor the ability of UCOP to support the campuses during and after this transition.

Additionally, last fall a special team from the regional accreditation group Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) visited UCOP. [WASC's report](#), which Academic Council endorsed, criticizes some of the University's management and governance practices and makes recommendations for improvements. I am optimistic that the [final](#) WASC report, as well as the earlier [Monitor Group](#) report, will help UC re-envision its governance structure, establish new accountability mechanisms, and appropriately realign the relative roles and responsibilities of UCOP, the Regents, and the campuses.

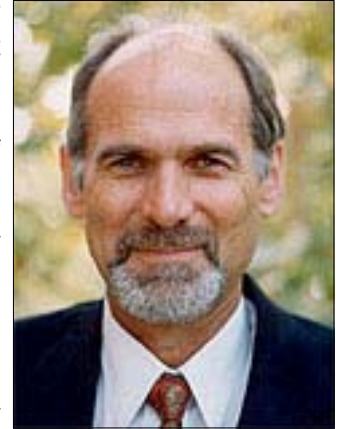
Budget woes are also a complicating issue. To help address a presently estimated \$16 billion state budget deficit the Governor has proposed a 10% after "Compact"-funding cut to UC in his 2008-09 budget. Many faculty are concerned about the implications of the budget situation for the implementation of the next phase of the faculty salary scales plan and other faculty priorities like graduate student support. The Senate is taking an active leadership role in advocating for these priorities.

I want to encourage faculty to take time out to view the new [UC for California](#) budget advocacy website, send their legislators a message or two in support of UC, and forward the link to UC colleagues and friends.

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Provost Hume Speaks with *The Senate Source*

The *Senate Source* recently sat down with Provost and acting chief operating officer Wyatt R. (Rory) Hume to get his perspectives on some of the most critical issues currently facing the University of California. A native of Australia, Provost Hume began his UC career at the UCLA School of Medicine as a postdoctoral fellow in 1974, before joining the UCLA School of Dentistry in 1977 as a faculty member. He also served as a faculty member at UCSF during the 1990s. Hume became UCLA's executive vice chancellor in 1998 and served in that position until 2002, when he returned to Australia to become president of the University of New South Wales. He came back to UC in September 2005 as Vice President for Academic and Health Affairs, and was appointed Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Health Affairs in June 2006. Provost Hume's Academic Senate service includes several years on the Academic Planning and Budget Committee at UCSF. He was also a member of the 1995-96 University Committee on Planning and Budget.



Q: Please comment on the Office of the President restructuring and how it will affect the campuses.

A: Our goal is to create a structure that is both more effective in supporting the work of the University and is at the same time more efficient, i.e., uses less money. By using less money at UCOP, more will be available for the support of the University's campus-based programs in teaching, research, and service. To put it simply, the changes are designed to provide better service at lower cost.

Q: What cuts do you expect the campuses will have to make in 2007-08 and 2008-09 as a result of the state budget crisis?

A: The Governor's budget does not propose cuts to the University for 2007-08, but for 2008-09 it does propose a reduction of 10% in the level of funding previously agreed to under the Compact, to include at least 10% less spending on administration. The final budget for 2008-09 will not be known until the budget is passed by the Legislature and Governor in mid-2008, and the University will do all that it can to reduce the level of cuts to our budget. We simply do not yet know what level of cuts the University will be required to bear in 2008-09, but both UCOP and the campuses are preparing plans in case cuts in the order of those proposed by the Governor do occur.

Q: What will be the impact of the cuts on the support of academic programs and academic policy activities – for example, services that certify a-g courses or provide analytical research to admissions policy?

A: As is always the case, if cuts have to be made a balance will need to be found between not starting new programs, and damaging to the smallest extent possible existing programs. That balance will depend on the level of cuts necessary, and on relative priorities. The examples given are obviously of high priority, but so are many other administrative functions performed in support of UC's programs.

Q: What will be the effect of the cuts on student fees?

A: The Regents do all that they can to keep student fees as low as possible, consistent with maintaining the quality of the University and its programs. Any reduction in funding from the state threatens that quality, and student fees are one source of revenue that must be considered. It is important to recognize that Regents policy requires that if student fees do increase, so too does financial aid.

[Story continues](#)

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I have been thinking a lot about “disparate impact” in admissions, which the [Regents’ Diversity Study Group Report](#) noted as a potential concern. There are indications that UC eligibility and admission rates between groups with the highest rates and lowest rates differ starkly. Although this is partially a K-12 problem, because primary and secondary school students are not being provided equal education opportunities, it is also a UC problem. UC’s admissions policies may perpetuate and exacerbate inequity to the extent that they assume equal opportunity where none exists. The University – particularly the Senate – has an obligation to address policies and processes that may be needlessly unfair. It may be possible to solve disparate impact, and thereby be compliant with applicable federal law, without using criteria prohibited by Proposition 209. On that note, the Academic Council recently sent out [BOARS’ revised proposal to modify freshman eligibility policy](#) for a second round of systemwide Senate review. BOARS is saying that it would be more fair for UC to look at all the information about a student before we determine eligibility. The first round of reviews led to excellent feedback, and I invite you to study how BOARS has responded.

Finally, I am delighted that the Assembly has elected UC San Diego Professor Henry Powell incoming 2008-2009 Academic Council Vice Chair. Professor Powell brings a wealth of leadership experience, a commitment to shared governance, and an understanding of the unique and extraordinary value of Academic Senate perspectives to the formation of institutional policy. He is a stellar choice and will be a great asset to the Senate and to Vice Chair Mary Croughan when she assumes the chairship of the Senate.

As winter turns to spring here in Oakland, I also have hopes that we are on the verge of a new springtime for the University. I wish you all the best for the spring term. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

— *Fiat Lux*, Michael T. Brown

UCSD Professor Powell Elected 2008-2009 Senate Vice Chair



UC San Diego Professor of Pathology Henry C. (Harry) Powell has been elected 2008-09 Council and Assembly Vice Chair.

Professor Powell received his M.D. from University College Dublin, and began his UCSD career as an assistant professor of pathology in 1976, after completing a distinguished clinical career that included a rotating

internship at Philadelphia General Hospital; a residency in combined anatomic and clinical pathology at UCSD; and a chief residency in neuropathology at Massachusetts General Hospital. His Academic Senate service includes work with the UCSD Committee on Academic Personnel and one year as UCSD Division Chair in 2006-07.

[More on Professor Powell](#)

THE SENATE SOURCE

is published periodically during the academic year by the Systemwide Senate to inform UC faculty about the activities of the Senate. Your comments are welcome: senateneeds@ucop.edu

Michael T. Brown, 2007-08 Academic Senate Chair
Michael LaBriola, Co-editor, Kenneth Feer, Co-editor

Assembly Endorses “Pits” Resolution

The Academic Assembly began 2008 by expressing concern about UC’s role in nuclear weapons production at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The Senate learned that the present contract potentially is binding for much longer than the seven years advertised in the bidding process. Further, it allows the government to increase LANL’s production of plutonium “pits,” the triggering mechanisms in both fusion and fission bombs, for weapons purposes beyond any limits UC may have envisioned.

At its January 30 meeting, the Assembly voted overwhelmingly to endorse a resolution not only expressing those concerns but also recommending that UC re-examine its involvement in LANL if pit production rises above current levels or if the University is unable to determine the number of pits being produced. The resolution was originally drafted and brought to the Academic Council by the Senate’s [Special Committee on Lab Issues](#) (ACSCOLI), which is concerned that the government’s plan to shift LANL’s focus from research and stewardship to increased production of weapons-grade plutonium pits was not fully disclosed during UC’s contract negotiations with the Department of Energy.

“I view the resolution as a first step – signaling the faculty’s concern about plans to increase UC’s involvement in nuclear weapons production,” said Academic Senate Chair Michael Brown. “The issue is one of principle. Plans to consolidate the nation’s nuclear weapons complex at LANL and to increase production of pits were not fully disclosed during UC’s contract negotiations with the DOE, and as a result, were not fully known by the faculty when they were surveyed in 2004. The conditions of the current lab contracts appear inconsistent with UC’s historical involvement in LANL – a public service mission centered on providing scientific research leadership for national security.”

The full Assembly resolution may be viewed [here](#).

UPDATES and EVENTS

► In December and January, Academic Council responded to the [Campus Security Task Force Draft Report](#) and a [Proposal on Guidelines Regarding Vendor Relations](#), sent President Dynes a [memo](#) commenting on a report from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, sent EVP Lapp [comments](#) about [Proposed Regulations Governing Conduct of Non-Affiliates](#), and sent Provost Hume, [Proposed Changes to APM 220-18.b\(4\) \(Criteria for Professor Step VI and Above Scale\)](#). In March, Council forwarded Provost Hume comments about the [Report of the University of California Joint Ad Hoc Committee on International Education](#).

► In January, the Assembly endorsed an [amendment to Senate Regulation 636](#), governing the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR), ratified an [amendment to Senate Bylaw 181](#), changing the name of the University Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunications Policy (ITTP) to the University Committee on Computing and Communications (UC3), and endorsed the University Committee on Academic Freedom’s [Student Freedom of Scholarly Inquiry Principles](#). At its February 20 meeting, Assembly [repealed Senate Regulation 458](#).

► The Academic Council and the campus Chancellors held their joint bi-annual meeting on March 5, 2008.

► The Senate’s efforts to [monitor state and federal legislation](#) of potential impact to faculty, students and the University’s teaching, research and service missions are updated on the [Legislative web page](#).

Under Senate Review

Unless otherwise noted, send comments to your [Divisional Chair](#) or relevant [Divisional Committee](#). Click [here](#) for a comprehensive list of current and past review items. Check the [Tracking Log](#) for the progress of all issues under review.

- [BOARS’ \(Revised\) Proposal to Reform Freshman Eligibility Policy](#) (Systemwide Committee and Division comments due 5/2/08)
- [UC Technology Guidance Committee Report: “Creating a UC Cyberinfrastructure”](#) (Committee and Division comments due 5/5/08)
- [Proposed Amendment to Senate Bylaw 140](#) (Committee and Division comments due 5/1/08)
- [Regents’ Task Force on Diversity Reports](#) (Divisional responses due 4/4/08)