

MINUTES OF MEETING
November 2, 2006
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to call, the Merced Division met on Thursday, November 2, 2006, in the Chancellor's Conference Room, Chair Shawn Kantor presided. Chair Kantor welcomed participants and called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the May 4, 2006, Meeting of the Division.

ACTION: Approved as written.

B. Modification of Senate Regulation 65.B Minimum Progress-Quantitative Standards.

ACTION: Approved as presented.

65.B. Minimum Progress-Quantitative Standards

An undergraduate student is subject to probation if he or she does not complete a minimum of 12 UC units, if he or she attends only one semester in an academic year, or 24 UC cumulative units for two semesters in an academic year (minimum progress is not calculated in the summer, although course work taken in summer can allow a student to catch up or get ahead of the minimum progress requirements). All deficient academic units must be made up on the next consecutive academic year in addition to the minimum 24 units required in that academic year. If the student meets the next applicable minimum progress requirement for quantitative standards, the student will return to good standing. If a student has not returned to good standing for quantitative standards in the next consecutive academic year, the student will be subject to disqualification.

Minimum progress requirements do not apply to students who have a dean's approval to carry less than the minimum progress load because of medical disability, employment, a serious personal problem, a recent death in the immediate family, the primary responsibility for the care of a family or a serious accident involving the student.

C. Annual Reports (2005-06)

ACTION: The Assembly received the 2005-2006 Annual Reports of the Standing Committees of the Academic Senate.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY INTERIM-CHANCELLOR RODERIC PARK

Chancellor Search. Interim-Chancellor Park assured the Senate that UCOP is performing its due diligence in finding a new chancellor for Merced. He indicated that the field has been narrowed to three final candidates and that it is likely that Merced will have a new chancellor by March.

Promise and Power of 10. UC President Dynes and Regent Chair Blum will be visiting Merced in the spring. They will be visiting each of the UC campuses to talk about “the promise and power of 10.” UCOP’s Long Range Guidance Team (LRGT) has identified this as “a primary theme that will influence and guide the University’s aspirations to be the world’s greatest research university in 2025.” The LRGT deliberations concluded that the key to UC’s continued success is finding ways to create a less redundant and more efficient infrastructure that will allow local (and cross-campus) academic programs to flourish despite the considerable financial and political challenges facing the University.

In anticipation of their visit, Chancellor Park forwarded a letter to Senior Vice President Darling and Provost and Senior Vice President Hume in which he suggested that President Dynes, during his visit to Merced, may wish to reemphasize certain points he has made previously that are less relevant to more mature campuses.

In his letter Chancellor Park noted former-Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey’s successes in bringing awareness to the San Joaquin Valley the importance of a UC campus in preparing and training high school graduates for roles which will benefit this area both economically and intellectually. Additionally, she initiated many programs which encourage and directly benefit the K-12 programs of the Valley in preparing both teachers and students to take advantage of the opportunities offered by higher education. There are now 29 grant supported staff working under the direction of Jorge Aguilar implementing these programs at the Fresno Center.

Chancellor Park went on to say that the citizens of this area in large part have not yet internalized the differences between a research university and the 2 and 4 year colleges and the benefits that a research university brings to areas such as the San Joaquin Valley. The additional intellectual capital provided by our faculty and graduates will soon attract well-paying industries that complement the great strengths in agriculture for which this valley is renowned.

He concluded the letter by reemphasizing that the UC Merced research benefit, beyond the preparation and teaching of undergraduates, will serve two purposes: (1) it will educate this area on the broader role of a research university and (2) will help build the morale of our faculty and graduate students who so far have seen much of the media emphasis here on our role in teaching undergraduates.

Wetlands/Clean Water Act 404 Permit. The permitting process seems to be back on track. UC Merced representatives have met with the new Project Manager and are expecting to receive the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) the end of January or early February. Then the EIS will go out for public comment for a period of 60 days. Next will be a period of negotiations and possibly compromise. It is unlikely that we will be able to avoid a new EIS. This process will take approximately another year.

Campus Art Committee. The chair of the Senate's Committee on Committees, Michael Colvin, has been contacted about nominating members to a Campus Art Committee. At some point soon UC Merced will need a committee, which should include faculty, to review donated art.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE EVC AND PROVOST KEITH ALLEY

WASC. The WASC visit scheduled for the end of October has been rescheduled until some time in early April. Although the WASC team found many positive elements in the UC Merced Educational Effectiveness Review, a supplemental report that more fully addresses the four WASC Standards has been requested.

[Standard I: Defining institutional purposes and ensuring educational objectives. Standard II: Achieving educational objectives through core functions. Standard III. Developing and applying resources and organizational structures to ensure sustainability. Standard IV. Creating an organization committed to learning and improvement.]

Absent accreditation, some of our students have experienced difficulty in transferring to other accredited institutions. The professional schools in question have been personally contacted resulting in a positive outcome in each instance. WASC and UCOP have been helpful in working with the Department of Homeland Security concerning problems with some of our international students.

UCOP has hired a consultant to help UC Merced with the accreditation process and that person will join us on January 10, 2007.

Summer Session. Provost Alley said that he will present a proposal next year for ladder rank faculty who teach one summer school course to receive 1/9th of their existing salary, if they teach two summer school courses they will receive 2/9^{ths}. Last year we made about \$20,000 on our summer session.

- Q Would it be possible for a ladder rank faculty member to teach during the summer in exchange for teaching in the fall or spring?
- A Yes, if we can work that out in the policies. Current work load policies do not take that into consideration.

Recruitment Projections. Provost Alley presented a series of overheads showing next year's recruitment projections. Because we have not met our enrollment goals, justifying greater expenditures on faculty lines is difficult. For this year we want to recruit to a total of 109 faculty, hopefully to 124 by the next year.

Redirect Program. A plan has emerged from UCOP that would permit students who are not accepted at other UC campuses to be admitted to UC Merced for their first two years of instruction with guaranteed transfer to the campus of their choice. This group would likely consist of academically well-prepared. UCOP data indicates that the ethnicity of this group will be predominantly Asian and Caucasian.

Q We are doing a good job at attracting and retaining underrepresented students. Is UCOP aware of that?

A Yes they are. In fact if we can prove that we are making "reasonable progress" in our efforts to get accredited we will qualify as a Hispanic-Serving Institution with the Title V Program. This could translate into an additional \$1M in financial aid. [A Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) is defined as a non-profit institution that has at least 25% Hispanic full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment, and of the Hispanic student enrollment at least 50% are low income.]

Q Will we be able to contact prospective students earlier than last year?

A Yes, we will be able to contact students some time in January. Then in early February we will be able to contact the eligible freshmen applicants. That's about a month earlier than last year.

Q OP is essentially telling us, with the Redirect idea, that we are going to be preparing students the "real UC." Is there a commitment to this campus or not?

A Provost Alley -- I can't even answer that question. Plain talk: they will have egg on their face if we don't succeed.

A Professor Peggy O'Day -- From my perspective as a representative to the systemwide BOARS, neither OP nor the campuses want us to fail. The other side of that coin is that we have to get students here. We are getting the applicants but we are not getting them to enroll. It is incumbent upon us to do all we can to get the students to come here.

Q The students are not as naïve as we think. They see something that isn't functional.

A Remember that 80% of the students came back so we are doing something right! And look at the campus this year compared to last. It's much improved.

Q I am opposed to UC Merced acting as a feeder school.

A This Redirect proposal is just in the talking stages. There has been no decision to go ahead. Remember that students who are just barely getting into UCB have other options than UCM.

Space Issues. Provost Alley acknowledged the hard work and significant amount of time that went into the Final Report of the Ad Hoc Campus Space Committee. He and Vice Chancellor of Administration Mary Miller have been studying the current academic plan for the campus and the associated space needs.

Q Classroom availability is also an issue. We have a big gap between the 30 student class size and 180 student class size. As the freshmen become juniors we will have difficulty finding adequate teaching space.

Q Science and Engineering II has been delayed several times and now it appears that it will be delayed until 2013.

A Part of the problem is that UCOP factors in the space at Mondo and Castle.

Q Is it possible to make UCOP understand that the space in Mondo and to some extent the space at Castle just isn't useable?

A The bottom line is enrollment numbers.

Q At some point we will have to consider what administrative functions that do not require regular or continuous interaction with faculty or students can be moved off-campus..

A Agreed. When the Space Committee was putting together that report they didn't have the administrative needs or priorities and that is being looked at now. Clearly everyone wants to be here on campus. We are going to have to make some hard choices.

Q It would be good if the faculty were involved in that process.

A Agreed. It is my intent to follow the suggestions that were in the Space Committee Report and I promise you I will do that.

Q Are there funds for temporary buildings?

A That is something that we are looking at.

Q SEI is filling up. Where are we going to put new faculty and students? A year and a half down the road there will be no space. It should be a high administrative priority to figure out where we are going to put these people.

A We made cogent comments regarding SEII and they were rejected.

Q When we get to the 5,000 student number, we will still be one building short. If we turn to modulars, is there enough footprint in order to have active construction? Parking would also be a big problem.

A Perhaps another footprint will be necessary. Eventually we may need a more vertical nature to the campus.

V. REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Due to time constraints brief reports were provided by several of the Standing Committee chairs:

A. Committee on Committees – Chair Michael Colvin

The Senate is looking for members to serve on a variety of committees. If you have not been contacted personally but would like to serve please contact me or the Senate Director.

B. Graduate and Research Council – Chair David Kelley

GRC will be sending out a call for proposals shortly. Junior faculty are especially encouraged to apply.

C. Undergraduate Council – Vice Chair Peggy O'Day

In addition to the UGC's efforts to increase enrollment, the committee is fully functioning and ready to receive proposals for new courses and majors.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest: Shawn Kantor, Chair

Minutes prepared by: Nancy Clarke, Senate Director