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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
SUSAN AMUSSEN, CHAIR
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August 15, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

I'm writing this as I wind down my term as chair of the Academic Senate. I hope that each of you has taken some time this summer to relax as well as to focus on your research! Life on campus has continued, and in recent weeks, new faces are appearing. Things slow down in the summer, but Summer Sessions was busy, and I thought I'd bring you up to date on a few things that have happened.

First, while the State Budget was passed, it was passed with a set of pre-defined trigger cuts, including \$250 million to UC, should the governor's tax referendum not pass in November; if the referendum fails, our students will also be faced with a large tuition increase, as UC will lose the funds that are supporting stable tuition for this year. The legislature has still not allocated the money for our new Classroom and Academic Office Building, which is the UC system's highest priority in terms of building. Planning is moving forward so that we are in the position to build the building as soon as funding comes through: the goal is to have a building that opens in the fall of 2015: the new classrooms in the building will be vital to supporting our growing enrollment. On campus, the summer saw the retirement of EVC and Provost Emeritus Keith Alley, and VCR Sam Traina's taking the role of interim Provost and EVC; as you have heard from the Chancellor today, in December we will welcome Dr. Thomas Peterson to campus as the permanent Provost and EVC. In the Senate Office, we are delighted to have added Mayra Chavez to the staff.

Over the past year, the Senate has become better integrated into the campus leadership, symbolized most importantly by the service of the Senate Chair on the Chancellor's Cabinet. We are very grateful for the way Chancellor Leland has worked collaboratively with the Senate. She is moving towards a more transparent budget process, which should enable the faculty to have a better sense of the choices that are being made. While we have not met our ambitious goals from last fall, we have helped make progress on the integration of planning, assessment, and graduate education across the campus. The Senate has had a chance to review a draft revision of the MAPP, the local personnel manual that supplements the APM: when that is completed, it will greatly improve the clarity of Academic Personnel policies and practices. More importantly, we have begun a set of discussions that reflect the growing size of the campus: how does our governance process shift? Who is responsible for what? Many *ad hoc* distributions of tasks that worked in earlier years have become counter-productive and dysfunctional. This is a discussion that will continue at the campus and school level for several

years, I am sure. And, as is necessarily the case with shared governance, none of these are issues that the Senate alone can resolve.

As I leave office, I want to thank the many people who help make the Academic Senate work. First would be the outstanding Senate staff: Executive Director Susan Sims, and Mayra Chavez, Mary Ann Coughlin, and Fatima Paul. I also want to thank those who have served on Senate committees in the past year, particularly those who have chaired committees: Gregg Camfield (Undergraduate Council), Rick Dale (Committee on Rules and Elections), Sean Malloy (Faculty Welfare), Will Shadish (Graduate and Research Council), Nella VanDyke (Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation), Jan Wallander (Committee on Academic Personnel), Jeff Yoshimi (Committee on Committees). On the Divisional Council, we had help from Linda Hirst representing CoC in the fall, and CAP was represented by Jian-Qiao Sun and Mike Colvin. Robin DeLugan and Wolfgang Rogge were able elected members of the committee, and Peggy O'Day who also chaired Senate Administration Council on Assessment and Planning (SACAP) an outstanding vice-chair. Shared governance is a hallmark of the UC system; it depends on the hard work of many people, who help support the campus and the system. It has been a pleasure to work with all of them. And I'm delighted to turn the Senate over to Peggy O'Day, who will become chair tomorrow.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan Amussen".

Susan Amussen
Chair

cc: Divisional Council
Senate Executive Director Susan Sims