



Notes From the Academic Senate Chair Lawrence Pitts lawrence.pitts@ucop.edu

There are a number of active issues before the Senate just now. In November the Academic Council unanimously approved the establishment of a [Special Committee on Scholarly Communications](#) (SCSC) to begin an evaluation of the most effective and affordable ways to distribute scholarly work in the coming years. As many of you know, UC is currently in negotiations with Elsevier (and will be with other publishers in the future) for continued electronic access to their journals. Agreement may be reached soon. But even if an accord is reached for *no* price increases in the near term, UC will still be paying substantial sums to a company that recorded a 30% profit last year, and whose very product is the result of faculties' scholarly work. We must find better ways to use widely available electronic media for dissemination of our work, both for periodicals and monographs. If any of you have a particular interest or expertise as editors, publishers etc., and would like to be contacted by SCSC, please [let us know](#) – we may seek your help on how best to move forward.

The Academic Council has adopted a [Resolution](#) proposed by the University Committee on Research Policy that endorses UC's current practice not to accept grants that include requirements for pre-publication editorial rights, as is required by government-sponsored work defined as "Sensitive but Unclassified Technical Information (SUTI)." This is a new category applied to work since 9/11 that does not warrant a "classified" designation, but that the government deems sensitive in nature. The Academic Council strongly opposes SUTI because it could lead to restricting the publication of research results.

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President Dynes' Message to the Senate

I am delighted to extend my greetings and best wishes to the members of the University of California Academic Senate. It is an honor to be taking on the presidency of the University, and I am looking forward to working with the Senate to preserve and enhance this institution's extraordinary contributions to California, the nation, and the world.

Shared governance has been one of the University's key sources of strength throughout its history, and I believe it is largely responsible for the quality of this institution today. I intend to continue our proud tradition of effective shared governance, in close collaboration with the Academic Senate.

My first two months on the job have been busy ones. I have focused on meeting people throughout the state and listening to their ideas for the University of California; this process has included two meetings with the Academic Council thus far. I also have met with a wide variety of other University groups, convened a series of web chats with members of the UC community, met with the press, and begun a systemwide "inaugural tour" that will take me to all of the UC campuses—and to several regions of California without a UC campus—over the next several months to meet many more people in person.

The University faces a number of challenging issues today. Chief among them is the state's severe budget deficit, which once again raises the question of the extent to which California will continue its historically strong commitment to public higher education. I have been working, and will continue to work, with the Schwarzenegger Administration and the Legislature to make the best possible case for the University's needs and to cultivate a

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President Robert Dynes

UPDATES AND EVENTS

- **Nominations for Senate Vice Chair** — Nominations for the 2004/05 Academic Senate Vice Chair are currently being accepted. Nominations should include a one-page bio, and are due to Senate Chair [Lawrence Pitts](#) by December 15, 2003.
- **Special Committee on Scholarly Communications** — The Academic Council is forming a [Special Committee](#) to address an array of issues related to academic publication.
- **Budget Proposal** — UCPB's Budget Proposal "[Increasing Access and Sustaining Excellence](#)" was approved by the Academic Council and will be sent to the President, as a proposal of the Academic Council, with a request that it be forwarded to the Regents.
- **SUTI** — UCORP's [Resolution on Sensitive but Unclassified Technical Information](#) (SUTI) was approved by the Academic Council and will be forwarded to the President, as a resolution of the Academic Council, in support of current UC practice not to accept grants with restrictions on publishing.
- **Labs Subcommittee Report** — The Academic Council received and approved for posting on the Senate's website the [UCORP Subcommittee Report on the DOE Labs](#)
- **ICAS** — The UC Academic Senate is hosting the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates this year, but few in the UC community are aware of this group's important work. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- **President's Study Group** — The President's new [UC Eligibility and Admissions Study Group](#) plans to submit its recommendations in March.
- **Copyright Education Website** — A [new website on copyright](#) has been launched to serve as a resource for academic copyright concerns.
- **UCCS Director Appointed** — Professor Gary Dymski, a political economist from UCR, has been appointed Director of the UC Center in Sacramento (UCCS). The UCCS pilot academic program, which will be launched in January 2004, will bring 25-30 undergraduates to Sacramento for a combination internship, research and instructional experience. Opportunities for individual and organized research activities will also be offered.

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real understanding of the many benefits the University of California brings to our state.

Despite our periodic political and economic uncertainties, the state of California today is the envy of the world. That fact is a testament to the success of innovation, diversity, tolerance, risk-taking, and entrepreneurship—the characteristics that define California. And much of that success simply would not be possible without the University of California and its contributions to education, health care, job creation, and quality of life.

In whatever challenge we face, my goal is to preserve our tremendous impact on California, and to do so by preserving and bolstering the University's historic missions: world-class excellence in teaching and research; access for Californians from every corner of the state and every walk of life; and public service that makes a true difference in California's communities.

The faculty are at the core of everything the University does. I am enormously proud of your accomplishments, and I look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead.

For an overview of upcoming events, my commentaries on various issues, and opportunities for the UC community to provide feedback directly to me, please visit my web page at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/president/. I hope you will stay in touch, and I will do the same.

Sincerely,
Robert C. Dynes, President

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This stance, however, may impact faculty members who do research in some of the SUTI areas, and their work may be affected by any action UC may choose to take on this policy. We have therefore asked President Dynes to continue the work begun by former President Atkinson and other university presidents to urge the federal government to return to its former “classified” — “unclassified” research designations, and not to impose the SUTI restrictions. Faculty who feel they may be affected are encouraged to contact their Vice Chancellors for Research or the Academic Senate for further discussions.

President Dynes has selected Robert Foley, retired four-star admiral with extensive industrial experience, as the new Vice President for Laboratory Management. His arrival is timely since President Bush has just signed a bill requiring that all three of UC's lab management contracts (Los Alamos, Livermore and Berkeley) be put out for bid. While a decision has not been made about whether UC *will* bid for the contracts, substantial preparation must be made now so that we *can* bid if we choose to do so. The [Academic Council Special Committee on the National Labs](#) (ACSCONL) will initiate a series of programs to inform faculty on lab issues soon after the New Year. A faculty referendum is planned for early May.

Discussions continue about the budget crisis and its impact on the future of the University, including possible enrollment reductions. Of major concern is how to minimize the adverse effects of the budget cuts on the educational opportunities available to high school graduates. We are addressing this issue with our [CSU and CCC faculty colleagues](#). In addition, the President's new [Eligibility and Admissions Study Group](#) is currently reviewing UC's eligibility and enrollment policies.

The Systemwide Academic Senate is committed to serving your interests, and I encourage you to [contact us](#) about your concerns.

Lawrence Pitts, Academic Senate Chair

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Senate's Oliver Johnson Award

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2004 recipient of the Oliver Johnson Award for Distinguished Leadership in the Academic Senate. The award, which is presented every two years, recognizes outstanding and creative contributions to faculty governance, sustained excellence of service, and exceptional ability in working effectively with different university constituencies. The 2002 award was received by Arnold Binder, Professor Emeritus at UC Irvine. Any Senate member is eligible, except those who have served on the Academic Council within the past three years. Nominations are due by March 12, 2004. Contact your local Committee on Committees or [Divisional Senate Chair](#) for details. Information is also available on the [UCOC Senate web page](#).

OUTREACH: More Faculty Involvement Urged

“Faculty could be a major force in closing the achievement gap,” said President Dynes at a recent conference focused on a new vision for faculty outreach. The Academic Council and the Office of the President jointly sponsored the November 7 event.

For a full report, [Click here](#)

UCFW ENDORSES TIERED PREMIUMS POLICY

Beginning January 1, your health care premium will be determined by your salary. The “banding” of [premiums](#) is a strategy adopted by UC to help keep quality health care affordable for all members of the UC community. The University Committee on Faculty Welfare has endorsed this principle in a [Position Statement on Tiered Healthcare Premiums](#). “Tiering” plus UC's practice of [risk-adjusting](#) its employee contributions will help maintain affordable premiums while allowing for plan choice.

Under Senate Review

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

- ▶ The Budget and its Effect on Student Enrollment Policies — Dec. 10
- ▶ [Proposed Revised Policy on Sexual Harassment and Procedures for Responding to Reports of Sexual Harassment](#) — Dec. 10
- ▶ [Proposed New Policy on Conflicts of Interest Created by Consensual Relationships](#) — Dec. 10
- ▶ [UC Health Sciences Faculty Retirement Proposal](#), Formal Review — Jan 12
- ▶ Adequacy of UC's Mortgage Origination and Supplemental Home Loan Programs — Jan 12

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