### Annual Report: Academic Year 2010-11
#### Davis Division: Academic Senate

#### Undergraduate Council

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<tr>
<th>Total Meetings: 16</th>
<th>Meeting frequency: Meetings were held every other week during fall, winter and spring quarters, and one time during summer quarter.</th>
<th>Average hours of committee work each week: Chair can expect up to 5 hours per week; committee members, approximately 1 hour per week.</th>
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<td>Total Proposals Reviewed: 32</td>
<td>Total proposals deferred from the previous year: 2 (Proposed Engineering Minors: Energy Efficiency; and Sustainability in the Built Environment)</td>
<td>Total projects deferred/continued to the coming academic year: 3 (Proposed Engineering Minors in Materials Science; Computational Biology &amp; Bioinformatics; and Biomedical Engineering)</td>
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**Listing of bylaw changes proposed:** None.

**Listing of committee policies established or revised:** None.

**Recommended Procedural changes recommended for the coming year:** None.

**Issues reviewed and considered by the committee:**

1. Undergraduate Major in Managerial Economics in the Graduate School of Management
2. Proposed Minor in Engineering: Energy Efficiency
3. Proposed Minor in Engineering: Sustainability in the Built Environment
4. Academic Council and UCLA Resolutions regarding Downsizing
5. Proposal to Merge Human & Community Development and Environmental Design
6. White Paper Suggesting Changes in Management of Animals Used in Teaching and Research
7. Proposed Policy Changes to Address Hate Crimes
8. Revised Proposal for New Major: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
9. Proposed Minor in Human Rights
10. Proposal to Discontinue Avian Science Major
11. Impacted Courses
12. Proposed Davis Division Regulations Revisions: 528-Credit by Examination; A540-Grades
13. Report of the Special Committee on Student Evaluation of Teaching
Committee’s narrative:

Undergraduate Council (UGC) has statutory authority over undergraduate education and programs. This includes establishing policy for undergraduate education on the Davis campus, as well as developing and reviewing campus wide educational objectives and criteria for evaluating educational effectiveness; establishing policy and exercising authority to approve or not approve establishment and discontinuation of undergraduate programs; authority on academic disqualifications and or/dismissals, and authority over undergraduate transcript notations.

Four subcommittees report to the UGC. The Committee on General Education was particularly active this year preparing for the implementation of the new GE requirements in Fall 2011. The GE Implementation Task Force, co-chaired by Chris Thaiss, realized the review of thousands of courses for their appropriateness as GE listings and developed clear implementation guidelines for new, continuing and transfer students in fall 2011. The UGC commends and thanks Chris and the GE Committee for what appears to be a successful transition to the new requirements this fall.

The Special Academic Programs Committee, chaired by Diane Strazdes, developed a set of guidelines for Academic Senate review of Special Programs and used these to review two undergraduate programs, the Intern and Career
Center, and the Undergraduate Research Center. The ICC got high marks for their valuable services and the committee’s only concern was that further reductions in ICC funding will have grave impact on its effectiveness. The Special Programs Committee was less enthusiastic about the URC and concerns about the effectiveness of student advising at URC and its potential redundancy with other campus advising services. The committee also expressed concerns about the lack of participation of Humanities and Arts students and the overall low number of faculty involvement in the URC annual research conference. The Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies, Pat Turner, wrote a detailed rebuttal to the Committee’s report and both the committee report and the VP’s rebuttal will be considered by the 2011-2012 UGC.

The Undergraduate Program Review committee, co-chaired by Dan Potter and Carl Whithaus, successfully completed the scheduled reviews of the Science and Society (SAS) and Atmospheric Science (ATM) programs. The Review Committee made suggestions for maintaining the integrity of the relatively small ATM major in the current budgetary difficult environment. Reviews of some LSA programs have been delayed because of lack of materials being provided the committee.

The Committee on Preparative Education, chaired by Alessa Johns, reviewed the the ESL Task Force proposal to required ESL coursework from Linguistics to University Writing Program (UWP). The Committee on Preparatory Education voted to support the move as did the UGC. On a somewhat related matter, the Committee expressed concerns that because transfer students are not required to take UWP lower division courses, many transfer students lack basic writing skills.

UGC’s counterpart at the UC system wide level is the UC Education Policy committee (UCEP). This committee meets once per month in at UOP in Oakland. UGC Chair John Yoder served as a representative to UCEP and in this capacity he provided regular updates to UGC about issues relating to undergraduate education on UC campuses system wide.

Probably the most problematic issue that came before UGC is the increasing number of requests from Departments and Colleges to discontinue or consolidate majors. The trend towards major closings or consolidations are largely driven by financial constraints and the UGC expressed concerns that administrative decisions driving by budgetary anxiety are not necessarily the most appropriate decisions from a campus or system wide viewpoint. The UGC would like to see proposals to eliminate majors clearly describe the academic rationale for such actions. The proposals need to include plans for student continuing in the major once admissions are suspended. Because existing students are allowed to finish in the major being closed, it is generally necessary to close admissions to a major prior to its formal discontinuance. Requests to close admissions to major
should therefore include the information and rationalization required to
discontinue the major.

The ASUCD representatives on UGC, Rodolfo Ornelas and Matthew Blair
brought forward the issue of that the minimum progress requirement can be
burdensome to students who need to work while taking classes. With gracious
assistance of the University Registrar Frank Wada, the UGC reviewed student
achievement data and came to the conclusion that the data did not warrant
changing the minimum progress requirement at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

John Yoder, Chair
John Bolander
Gregory Dobbins
Patrick Farrell
Alessa Johns
Susan Keen
Janet Roser
Diana Strazdes
Christopher Thaiss
Shrinivasa Upadhyaya
Carl Whithaus
Matthew Blair (ASUCD Rep)
Rudy Ornelas (ASUCD Rep)
Amaan Shaikh (ASUCD Rep)
Patricia Turner (Ex-Officio – Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies)
Frank Wada (Ex-Officio – University Registrar)
Nancy Kilpatrick, Undergraduate Council Analyst