Re: Fall Quarter 2012 Report of the Administrative Oversight Special Committee

The Executive Council of the Davis Division created the Administrative Oversight Special Committee (AOSC) to interact routinely with the Chancellor and other key administrators to assure that the Executive Council and Representative Assembly receive periodic updates concerning the Chancellor’s progress toward achieving the recommendations outlined in the report of the Special Committee on the November 18th Incident. The AOSC reports to the Executive Council at least quarterly, makes a formal report at each Representative Assembly meeting held during the 2012-2013 academic year and following presentation to the Representative Assembly, a formal report is forwarded to the UC Academic Council.

In meeting the formal reporting requirements to the UC Academic Council, we will submit a summary of the activities of AOSC and the “Updated Response to the UC Davis Academic Senate’s Executive Council Request for an Action Plan”, which is a quarterly report submitted by the UC Davis administration to the AOSC. When needed, revisions are requested by AOSC, and then the report is released to the Representative Assembly and UC Academic Council.

During October, AOSC met Chancellor Katehi and several issues were discussed and clarified. The Chancellor indicated that she expects to hear dissenting opinions from others when she must make important decisions and reviewed the steps taken to create a culture where such opinions are voiced. The Administrative Oversight Special Committee commended the Chancellor for taking a proactive and responsive approach. Several additional and specific questions were posed by AOSC to the administration to which the following responses were received:

Question: How will consultation occur in the context of the UC Davis Leadership Team?
Response: “The Event and Crisis Management Team is a group of senior-level administrators who meet to discuss planning and preparations for major events, participates in trainings around emergency preparedness, and debriefs following a major incident. The group operates under the guidance of the ECMT Guide which includes a process to convene the team, and to review key executive level issues. The Academic Senate (Chair and/or his/her designee) is an integral member of this group. In addition, the Academic Senate Chair and the Vice Chair of Academic Federation are included as full members of the newly formed Campus Community Council, which serves to promote dialogue and exploration of campus/community issues. Campus Community Council membership also includes representatives of staff, students-both undergraduate and graduate-retirees, and alumni.”
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Question: Will an administrator be present during future campus demonstrations?
Response: “UCPD Systemwide Policy (adopted on Sept. 28, 2012) now stipulates that stakeholder involvement is “critical for effective law enforcement response to crowd management events”. UCPD shall embrace collaboration with stakeholders when planning for and responding to public assemblies and gatherings. These stakeholders, as defined, include administration, AS leadership, student group leadership, etc. Furthermore, UC Davis standard operating procedure now requires that a campus executive be present either in the command center or on the scene of any major demonstration, etc.”

Question: How does the task force to be formed in response to Reynoso Recommendation A-1: Agreement on policies regulating protests and civil disobedience relate to the Freedom of Expression group formed in response to I.2 Academic Senate Recommendation AS-2: Freedom of Expression Group? How do we ensure non-duplication of effort?
Response: “The Academic Senate’s Freedom of Expression Special Committee now takes precedence. The initial proposal to form a task force has been shelved to permit the Special Committee to do its work. Should it be advantageous later to create a task force comprised of faculty and representatives of the administration to receive and consider the Special Committee’s recommendations, then that could be a potential course of action, but presently there is no conflict or duplication of effort.”

Question: The response to Reynoso Recommendation A-4: Heal the campus and apply Principles of Community in a practical fashion remains vague and runs the risk of further alienating parties who feel disenfranchised with things like: “Faculty and staff will be encouraged to take part in training related to the Principles of Community, and a special version of the Principles of Community training will be developed for students.
Response: “Our ongoing work would benefit from faculty input on what constitutes engagement, and asks how do we more effectively implement and/or foster deep regard for the Principles of Community? How would the Academic Senate like to see campus leadership exercise a positive ongoing role in this area?” (AOSC will respond to these questions at a future meeting.)

In conclusion, based on reports made during October to AOSC, the majority of the management and administrative measures recommended by the Davis Division Special Committee on November 18th & UCOP Task Force have been put in place. Now the various measures should be given an opportunity to become fully operational and their effectiveness will be monitored by the Administrative Oversight Special Committee.

Sincerely,

André Knoesen, Chair
Administrative Oversight Special Committee
Davis Divisional Vice Chair
Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Enclosure

C: Davis Divisional Chair Nachtergaele (w/o enclosure)