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DANIEL L. SIMMONS, CHAIR

University of California
Academic Council
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
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Re: UC Senate Membership Task Force Report

The referenced report was forwarded to all standing committees of the Davis Division in addition to the Faculty Executive Committee in UC Davis schools and colleges. Comments were received from the Committees on Faculty Welfare, Elections Rules and Jurisdiction and Academic Personnel, as well as, the College of Letters and Science and School of Medicine Faculty Executive Committees.

There was a diversity of reactions by key Divisional committees to the report. The Division has not been able to reach consensus concerning the report's content and recommendations. Concerning the four recommendations, the following points were raised:

Recommendation One:

- The Committee on Elections Rules and Jurisdiction disagreed with recommendation #1 (that shared Academic Senate appointments are "currently allowable"). Although shared appointments may currently be allowable; a shared appointment may not be feasible. The committee suggested the task force consider a recommendation that all non-Senate members of the Senate "who engage in the academic mission of the Senate on a regular basis" should be granted a Senate title.

Recommendation Two:

- The Committee on Academic Personnel-Oversight noted there is potential for significant workload impact on the number and types of personnel actions the committee might see as a result of recommendation #2: "The Task Force recommends local review of existing individuals in non-Senate titles and reclassification of those that are clearly in the wrong series based upon duties and responsibilities consistent with membership in the Academic Senate."
- CERJ contends that recommendation #2 addresses the issue of appointment to the "wrong" series rather than the issue of whether faculty should be appointed to an "additional" series.
- The School of Medicine Faculty Executive Committee believes that maintaining the current list of Academic Senate titles does not address the growing discontent of a large portion of faculty system-wide. They also felt that recommending non-Academic Senate faculty switch to an Academic Senate title is impractical.

Recommendation Four:

- The Committee on Elections Rules and Jurisdiction believes Regents Standing Order 105.1 will need to be changed in order to implement the recommendation.

Key Points:

The Committee on Faculty Welfare endorsed all four recommendations in the Task Force Report emphasizing two points: 1) criteria for Senate membership of non-Senate health sciences faculty should be uniform across all UC campuses; and 2) strict adherence to current requirements for Senate membership as described in the APM be maintained to prevent appointment of non-Senate personnel to Academic Senate titles on the general campus.

College of Letters and Science noted that the number of Academic Senate appointments in the professional schools seem to be increasing as opposed to the static or declining numbers of Academic Senate members comprising the faculty of the undergraduate colleges and schools. The figures raise an important question of how decisions are made in the professional schools as to who may be appointed to an Academic Senate title. The college noted that Regents Standing Order 105.1 includes the statement: "Members of the faculties of professional schools offering courses at the graduate level only shall be members also of the Academic Senate, but, in the discretion of the Academic Senate, may be excluded from participation in activities of the Senate that relate to curricula of others schools and colleges of the University." There is uncertainty about whether appropriate controls are/were in place to enforce the provision, assuming the Senate elects to do so.

The School of Medicine Faculty Executive Committee had a strong reaction to the report noting that the recommendations of the task force (essentially maintaining status quo) are exclusionary and inconsistent with fundamental fairness. There are differing proportions of non-Academic Senate faculty at other medical schools in the UC system and the proportion of Academic Senate to non-Academic Senate titles varied significantly amongst departments in the UC Davis School of Medicine. The School of Medicine faculty recommended the following to allow non-Academic Senate faculty to enjoy shared governance to the fullest extent: 1) change Regents Standing Order 105 to include the Health Sciences Clinical Professor and all other non-Academic Senate faculty titles; 2) alter bylaws at UC medical schools such that non-Academic Senate members enjoy full rights within the School of Medicine; 3) provide instructor appointments to Health Science Clinical Professors so they would be Academic Senate members.

I have and will continue meeting with key members in advance of the Academic Council meeting in order to fully participate in discussions.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Powell III, Chair
Davis Division of the Academic Senate and
Professor and Chair, Department of
Chemical Engineering and Materials Science