

4. REMARKS OF THE CHAIR OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

Faculty Representative Horwitz shared several of the Academic Senate's accomplishments this year. Last month, the Academic Assembly voted and passed a Memorial to the Regents asking that the University invest in its infrastructure in order to reduce on-campus fossil fuel combustion by at least 60 percent by 2030 and 95 percent by 2035. Mr. Horwitz would report on the full Senate's vote on the Memorial at a future meeting. Memorials, or declarations or petitions submitted to the Regents, were relatively rare; the last memorial asked that the University divest from fossil fuel companies. After many years of advocacy, faculty were heartened to learn that fossil fuel investments would be removed from the UC Retirement Savings Plan portfolio.

In April, the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS), charged with creating a singular general education transfer pathway pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 928, voted unanimously to recommend a new Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC). The segments compromised on various curricular requirements to come to this recommendation, which would be reviewed by the respective Academic Senates for approval. Mr. Horwitz would report on the outcome at a future meeting. ICAS remained opposed to AB 928 because it believed that inadequate student advising resources and deficiencies in the ASSIST transfer website would still make transferring difficult, and because the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) Intersegmental Implementation Committee would consist mostly of administrators and organizations instead of faculty. ICAS was concerned that implementation might cater to political and budgetary goals rather than students' well-being and educational interests.

Last year, some campus administrators challenged the efficacy of or need for systemwide Senate review of proposals for new master's programs, citing roadblocks and time delays. Provost Brown formed a Senate administration work group to examine these concerns, which were often related to self-supporting master's programs. Mr. Horwitz stated that systemwide Senate review of these programs ensures that they are well designed and in the best interest of students, and also reduces these programs' reputational risks that were affecting other institutions. The work group found that systemwide Senate review materially improved the quality of master's program proposals, and faculty attested to this as well. Since 2018, the time required for systemwide Senate review decreased from six to three months. The work group completed its deliberations this month and revalidated systemwide Senate review. Self-supporting master's programs were one of the ways campuses sought to garner revenue in light of two decades of the State's disinvestment in UC. While they could be innovative, quality could be secondary to financial returns. Many of these programs, some of them at UC, have failed to confer the promised educational benefit while saddling students with debt, and uncontrolled growth of these programs could push out State-supported programs. The Senate has also been deliberating whether fully online, undergraduate degree programs might help address access or be a grievous departure from UC-quality education. He planned to report on this at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff