Chair's Summary

The Senate leadership began the 2008-2009 year with two primary goals. We intended to work toward enhancing communication among the Senate, the faculty, and the administration and we planned to initiate a reorganization of the Senate designed to increase its efficiency and effectiveness. To some degree, these starting goals were overtaken by events as the 2008-2009 academic year presented historic challenges to the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate and the Senate leadership.

A new UC President, Mark Yudof, joined the University of California in June 2008, and the Berkeley Senate leadership was eager to become acquainted with the new leader of systemwide. To this purpose, Divisional Council (DIVCO) met with President Yudof at a Senate luncheon hosted by Chancellor Robert Birgeneau on November 14, 2008. This meeting provided an opportunity for the Senate leadership to briefly share with President Yudof a few of the Berkeley faculty’s major concerns for the future.

Toward the goal of improving communication among the Senate, the faculty, and the administration:

1. Division Vice Chair Christopher Kutz and I requested of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost (EVCP) George Breslauer that Senate leadership participate in the Council of Deans (COD). This group meets about every two weeks and plays a substantial role in policy decisions. Starting with the COD meeting on October 7, 2008, Chris Kutz and I regularly attended these administrative meetings for the remainder of the year.

2. We initiated a “Conversations with the Faculty” series, intended to facilitate faculty communication with the campus administration and Senate committees. We sponsored three afternoon conversations all held at the Women’s Faculty Club:
   - Sheldon Zedeck, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Faculty Welfare, on October 1, 2008: New initiatives to improve the quality of life for the Berkeley Faculty.
   - EVCP Breslauer on October 29, 2008: Berkeley budget planning and priorities.
   - Robert Anderson, Chair of the University Task Force on Investment and Retirement, on March 18, 2009: Will my UC retirement plan be there when I need it?

3. We invited UC President Yudof to attend our Spring Divisional meeting on April 23rd. While this was intended as an opportunity for discussion with the President, the flow of words was primarily one-way.

4. In response to serious faculty concern and outrage concerning Berkeley budget issues, we initiated a Senate-sponsored town hall meeting (August 3, 2009) for faculty to voice their opinions and ideas concerning the impending campus budget cuts, in particular, faculty furloughs. About 150 faculty attended this meeting.

In a concerted attempt to improve both the effectiveness and efficiency of the Berkeley Senate, we initiated a “Blue Ribbon” Task Force on Senate Organization and Effectiveness. I chaired the
Task Force which was comprised of three former chairs of the Berkeley Division, Alice Agogino, Ronald Gronsky, Robert Knapp, and Andrea Green Rush, Executive Director of the Berkeley Division. Linda Song, Associate Director, provided staff support. The overall charge was to recommend ways to streamline Academic Senate committee operations that would increase the Senate’s effectiveness, use faculty time more efficiently in light of increasing workload, and improve the Senate’s ability to provide the administration with timely and sound advice. The Task Force convened in February 2009 and submitted its final report in September 2009.

On January 21, 2009, the Berkeley administration met at UC Office of the President with the President and systemwide budget analysts to provide a preliminary outline of how the campus was proposing to take the budget cuts expected at that time. I attended this meeting as a representative of the Berkeley faculty. The fact that the Chancellor and EVCP included the Senate in this critically important meeting reflected a sense of partnership in facing the oncoming budget crises.

As the year progressed, it became incrementally more apparent that major budget cuts were going to be formulated and imposed during the year. The traditional path of advice and consent between the Senate and the administration was for EVCP Breslauer to report periodically to the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA). At the end of the year CAPRA would summarize its recommendations on budget decisions and these were forwarded in writing to the administration. In an attempt to put the Senate at the table for budget discussion prior to the formulation of decisions and to provide a “fast response” group of Senate faculty who could participate in real time in discussion and formulation of budget strategies, we formed a subgroup of Senate faculty initially called “the Budget Working Group”. Recognizing the central role of CAPRA in these discussions, members included: John Ellwood, chair CAPRA; Elizabeth Deakin, vice chair CAPRA; Alexis Bell, member CAPRA; as well as Christopher McKee, chair, Committee on Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (BIR); Carla Hesse, 2007-2008 BIR chair; Christopher Kutz, Vice Chair of the Division; and myself as chair of the Division. This “Budget Working Group” met on February 23, 2009, for the first time with key people from the administration involved in budget strategy. For the remainder of the year the Senate budget group met almost every two weeks, usually with representatives of the administration. By early summer this working group had been renamed the Gimlet Group (def. sharp-sighted) by the administration and had added an additional elected member from DIVCO, Anthony Long. As Carla Hesse became Dean of Social Sciences on July 1, 2009, she left the group and the incoming chair of BIR, David Lieberman, came to the table.

In light of the budgetary crisis facing the Berkeley campus, the administration and the Senate leadership agreed that a serious discussion of enrollment policies had to occur and that to affect admissions planning for the 2009-2010 year, this discussion had to occur in very short order — that is, during summer 2009. With unusually short lead time we requested suggestions for Senate membership from COMS immediately before it adjourned for the summer. Working with this list, attempting to cover critical Senate committee inputs, working to provide some disciplinary balance, and finally working with the incoming COMS chair to find more names from the humanities and social sciences, we nominated seven Senate representatives. This joint Administration – Senate task force was appointed and charged in late June with reaching consensus on undergraduate enrollment targets in the context of a severely constrained funding environment, in which nearly one-quarter of our undergraduate enrollment is unfunded by the state. The preliminary report from this group was received in August 2009. It recommended a net reduction of 200 freshman admits, and an increase in out-of-state-enrollment to approximately 20% of the class.
In early June, EVCP Breslauer informed the Senate leadership that he intended to convene a “time-limited task force, to be chaired by Christopher Edley, Dean of Law, to discuss and explore the prospects for our using largely online pedagogy to launch revenue-generating programs.” This initiative seemed to originate in large part from discussions at the Council of Deans. The EVCP requested that the Senate nominate two people, available over the next four weeks, to contribute to this discussion of feasibility. This was to be an administrative Task Force that was apparently going to happen with or without Senate participation. Kristie Boering (chair of the Committee on Courses of Instruction) and I joined and participated actively in this discussion which produced a report to the EVCP in mid-August.

At the March 30, 2009 DIVCO meeting, discussion began concerning a proposal to redefine instruction days. This proposal was in development for many months, resulting in part from the joint Administration – Senate task force on final exams and in part as reactivation of an initiative by Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Facilities (VP) Catherine Koshland. VP Koshland and COCI Chair Kristie Boering presented the proposal to convert several “podium days” at the end of each semester to “Reading/Review/Recitation (RRR)”. This proposal was developed in response to the students’ need for more review days, the need to better balance semesters, and changing methods of pedagogy and assessment. The proposal was forwarded to Graduate Council and the Committee on Educational Policy for comment. At the April 27th DIVCO, discussion continued concerning the proposal to increase the pre-exam period from two, to three to five RRR days within the 146 day academic calendar. Discussion was generally supportive and Council, by a vote of 12-2 in favor, instructed me to forward a generally strong endorsement of the principles behind the proposal. The proposed creation of RRR days has now been implemented for the 2009-2010 year.

During late spring and early summer of 2009, there was substantial faculty concern about the financial effects of the furlough policy on junior rank faculty in particular. At a Gimlet Group meeting in July we discussed the possibility of the Senate Committee on Research (COR) expanding the budget items allowed in COR grants to include some amount of summer salary to be used to encourage summer research by the faculty most affected by furloughs. This proposal immediately garnered tangible support from both the EVCP and the Chancellor and was referred to the leadership of COR for further study and development.

As an outgrowth of the Energy Biosciences Institute (EBI) contract negotiations, a Senate Task Force was charged (during the 2007-2008 academic year) with developing guidelines and criteria for future large-scale University-industry collaborations, with consideration of academic freedom, intellectual property (IP), risk, and other issues. The task force reported to DIVCO on October 28, 2008. The report presented by the task force co-chairs Chris Kutz and Miguel Villas-Boas recommended a governance model, defined a Senate review process, and identified triggers for initiation of Senate review. DIVCO endorsed the report, which was ultimately discussed and presented to the retiring Vice Chancellor for Research Beth Burnside and the incoming Vice Chancellor for Research Graham Fleming.

Vice Chair Kutz and I served on the Systemwide Task Force on Recognizing Students Interned during WWII. This resulted in the Board of Regents considering and approving the Conferring of Honorary Degrees and Suspension of Bylaw 29.1 at the July 16, 2009 meeting.

I served as a member of the Search Committee for a new Dean of Social Science.
Senate leadership met on January 16, 2009, with Student Regent D'Artagnan Scorza and Student Regent Desinee Jesse Bernal, concerning budgetary, faculty, and student issues facing UC.

A proposal to reestablish the Bowles Hall residential college was presented to DIVCO on May 11, 2009, by members of the Bowles Hall Alumni Association (BHAA). DIVCO began discussion of the proposal at that meeting and completed discussion at the May 18th meeting. Divisional Council endorsed the concept for establishing an independent residential college in Bowles Hall and indicated support for the BHAA in further discussions with campus administration.

One of the roles of the division chair is to promote an understanding of shared governance and the role of the Academic Senate. To that end, during my year as chair I met with the following international delegations who were particularly interested in the functions and role of faculty governance at UC Berkeley:
- February 13, 2009, a delegation from Tohoku University in Japan.
- March 20, 2009, a delegation from Seoul National University in Korea.
- May 5, 2009, a delegation from Shantou University in Guangdong, China.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Firestone
Chair, 2008-2009
Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
List of Activities

The following summarizes Divisional Council and Division activities and actions for 2008-2009, including the date(s) upon which the item was acted upon. Please refer to the Divisional Council approved minutes and communications for details.

Academic Programs

• Forwarded comments on the review of the Department of Scandinavian to the vice provost for academic planning and facilities. (9/22/08, 10/6/08)
• Forwarded comments on the review of the Department of German to the vice provost for academic planning and facilities. (10/6/08)
• Forwarded endorsement of the UCDC Spring 2009 academic calendar to the vice provost for academic planning and facilities. (10/20/08)
• Forwarded comments on the review of the School of Law to the vice provost for academic planning and facilities. (11/17/08)
• Forwarded comments on the review of the Department of Astronomy to the vice provost for academic planning and facilities. (12/1/08)
• Forwarded comments on the review of the Student Learning Center to the assistant vice chancellor for equity and inclusion. (12/15/08)
• Forwarded comments on the proposed name change for A.B. in Political Economy of Industrial Societies to the vice provost for academic affairs and faculty welfare. (12/1/08)
• Forwarded comments on the proposed establishment of Planetary Science as an undergraduate specialization to the vice provost for academic affairs and faculty welfare, vice provost for academic planning and facilities, and the Department of Earth and Planetary Science. (12/1/08)
• Forwarded comments on the review of the Department of Astronomy to the vice provost for academic planning and facilities. (12/1/08)
• Forwarded comments on the review of the Student Learning Center to the assistant vice chancellor for equity and inclusion. (12/15/08)
• Forwarded comments on the proposed name change for the Department of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research, to the vice provost for academic affairs and faculty welfare. (12/15/08)
• Forwarded comments on the review of the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics to the vice provost for academic planning and facilities. (3/9/09)
• Forwarded comments on the review of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering to the vice provost for academic planning and facilities. (3/9/09)
• Endorsed the principles behind proposed changes to the academic calendar and forwarded comments to the vice provost for academic planning and facilities. (3/30/09, 4/27/09)
• Forwarded comments on the review of the Department of Art Practice to the vice provost for academic planning and facilities. (4/13/09)
• Endorsed the proposed discontinuance of the graduate program in Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry to the vice provost for academic affairs and faculty welfare. (4/27/09)
• Forwarded endorsement of an on-going adjustment to the UCDC spring academic calendar to the vice provost for academic planning and facilities. (6/15/09)

Informal comment to the Systemwide Academic Senate:

• On the academic program review of the Division Agriculture and Natural Resources. (7/27/09)

Policies

• Approved the charge for a joint Berkeley division/administration task force on remote and online instruction. (9/22/08)
• Forwarded comments on the Consortium on Financing Higher Education (COFHE) statement on assessment to Chancellor Robert Birgeneau. (10/6/08)
• Forwarded comments on proposal for a Berkeley Social Enterprise Alliance to the executive vice chancellor and provost. (10/6/08)
• Forwarded comments on the retiree rehire policy adopted by the Regents, to Academic Council. (10/20/08)
• Endorsed the final report of the Senate Task Force on University-Industry Partnerships. (10/20/08)
• Forwarded comments to Academic Council on the recommendations of the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate of the UC Task Force on Planning for Professional and Doctoral Education. (11/3/08)
• Forwarded comments on the University of California accountability framework to Academic Council. (11/3/08)
• Forwarded comments to Academic Council on proposed revisions to APM 110-4(10); 230-17; 230-18; 279-20: 360-80-a; 520-4; and 710-14-b, 710-14-1, 710-38, and 710-46; and proposed new APM 765. (11/3/08)
• Declined to comment on the staff policy change allowing the use of accrued sick leave for baby bonding, proposed by the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on the LGBT Community at Cal. (12/15/08)
• Approved core computing guidelines for instructors and forwarded comments to the Committee on Computing and Communications. (3/9/09)
• Forwarded comments on proposed revisions to APM 240 (Deans) to Academic Council. (3/9/09)
• Forwarded comments to the executive vice chancellor and provost regarding the use of variable discussion formats, and preserving the quality of education in times of budgetary challenges. (3/30/09, 4/13/09)
• Forwarded the Committee on Admissions, Enrollment and Preparatory Education (AEPE) Policy on Nonresident Undergraduate Enrollment to the executive vice chancellor and provost. (4/27/09)
• Forwarded comments on proposed technical revisions to APM 028 (disclosure of financial interest in private sponsors of research) to Academic Council. (4/27/09)
• Forwarded comments on proposed amendments to Senate regulations on admissions to Academic Council. (5/11/09)
• Forwarded comments on principles for non-resident enrollment (Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools) to Academic Council. (5/18/09)
• Forwarded comments on the proposed UC seminar network to the University Committee on Research Policy, through Academic Council. (5/18/09)

Informal Comment to the Systemwide Academic Senate
• On the proposed supplementation of APM 010 (Academic Freedom). (7/24/09)

Legislation
• Forwarded endorsement of the proposed modifications to Senate Bylaws 125.A.4, 128, and 130 (UCAF representation on Academic Council and the term of the UCAF chair) to Academic Council. (11/3/08)
• Forwarded comments on proposed amendments to Regents’ Standing Order 100.4 (Duties of the President) to Academic Council. (5/18/09)

Enacted Legislation
All items placed on the Division meeting consent calendars were approved by the Division by consent.
• Approved an amendment to Berkeley Division Bylaw 162 (electronic distribution of meeting notices for Division meetings) for placement on the Consent Calendar at the fall 2008 Division meeting. (9/22/08)
• Approved proposed amendments to Berkeley Division Bylaw 17.B (Committee on Committees), carried over from 2007/08, at the fall Division meeting. (11/13/08)
• Approved proposed amendments to Berkeley Division Regulations 350, 352, and 353 (Haas School of Business), carried over from 2007/08, at the fall Division meeting. (11/13/08)
• Approved proposed amendments to Berkeley Division Regulation A952 (School of Public Health), carried over from 2007/08, at the fall Division meeting. (11/13/08)
• Approved an amendment to Berkeley Division Regulation A251 (disposition of final exams) for placement on the consent calendar of the spring 2009 Division meeting. (2/9/09, 3/9/09)

Proposed Legislation
None
Unfinished Business
None

Faculty/University Welfare
• Forwarded recommendations on the diversity-related service item in a revised bio-bibliography proposal, to the vice provost for academic affairs and faculty welfare. (5/11/09)
• Commented on a survey of faculty conducted by the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Faculty Welfare. (5/11/09)

Budget and Planning
• Declined to endorse the UOEAP (UC Education Abroad Program) business plan, and forwarded comments to Academic Council. (12/1/08)
• Forwarded comments on instructional continuity post-disaster or during an extended emergency to the executive vice chancellor and provost. (12/15/08, 4/27/09)
• Endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation regarding a proposed $2B revenue bond issue intended to finance seismic upgrades, and forwarded comments to Academic Council. (1/26/09)
• Forwarded comments on the document “Access and Excellence” to Chancellor Robert Birgeneau. (2/9/09)
• Endorsed the concept of an independent residential college in Bowles Hall and forwarded comments to the Bowles Hall Alumni Association. (5/11/09, 5/18/09)
• Approved and forwarded CAPRA’s budget recommendations for 2009-10 to the executive vice chancellor and provost. (5/18/09)
• Commented on President Yudof’s furlough/salary reduction plan options. (7/6/09)

Awards and Honors
• Approved five Distinguished Teaching Award recipients. (3/9/09)
• Approved the recipient of the 2009 Berkeley Faculty Service Award. (3/9/09)
• Approved two Faculty Research Lecturers. (3/30/09)
• Declined to approve a proposal from the Committee on Student Diversity and Academic Development (SDAD) to establish diversity awards for students and staff. (4/27/09)
• Approved two recipients of the Leon Henkin Citation for Distinguished Service. (5/18/09)

Senate Management
• Conducted a Senate leadership orientation. (9/3/08)
• Approved the charge for a task force on Senate organization, and authorized the Committee on Committees to appoint members. (11/3/08)
• Held two Division meetings (with official counts of 55 and 78 Senate members, respectively). (11/13/08, 4/23/09)
• Approved and forwarded the DIVCO 2007-2008 annual report to the systemwide Academic Senate. (9/8/08)
• Conducted an electronic election for the division. (4/3/09)

Senate Events
• Sponsored three Conversations with the Faculty events for Senate members, featuring presentations by campus leaders. (10/1/08, 10/29/08, 3/18/09)
• Held an end of year reception for Divisional Council and Senate leadership. (5/14/09)
• Held a faculty town hall meeting on the budget cuts. (8/3/09)

Cosponsored Events
• Cosponsored the New Faculty Orientation with the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Faculty Welfare. (8/22/08)