The Council of University of California Staff Assemblies (CUCSA) held its second quarterly meeting of the 2008-09 academic year at UC Santa Cruz December 3-5, 2008. The Council is an advisory body composed of two delegates from each of the ten campuses, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), and the Office of the President. Officers are Lin King, Chair (UC Davis), Nancy Horton, Vice Chair (UC Berkeley), and Beverly Skinner, Secretary (UC Berkeley). CUCSA meets on a quarterly basis rotating between the campuses, the national lab, and the Office of the President to promote communication and to solicit feedback on interests of primary concern to staff.

George Blumenthal, Chancellor, UC Santa Cruz

Chancellor Blumenthal, a current and honorary member of CUCSA, welcomed delegates to UC Santa Cruz. He recognized CUCSA as an important conduit of information to and from staff; acknowledged the vital role staff play in all areas of campus life by providing service to faculty and students as well as staff at UC; and gave an overview of the location and colleges.

Frank Zwart, Executive Vice Chancellor, Physical Planning and Construction

EVC Zwart talked about “Growth and Stewardship, the Building of UCSC,” the “Sensitive Collaboration Between the Designer and this Spectacular Environment…” He gave a presentation on the building and growth of UC Santa Cruz.

Staff Advisors to the Regents

Bill Johansen, Staff Advisor to The Regents
Edward Abeyta, Staff Advisor to The Regents Designate

The Staff Advisor and Staff Advisor Designate talked about their work with legislators and said they would like to see more staff involved with California legislators. The Staff Advisors are in the process of visiting each campus and talked about changes between Presidents Dynes and Yudof. They also encouraged staff to apply for the Staff Advisor to the Regents Designate; application process begins January 16, 2009 for the 2009-10 academic year.

Delegates delivered updates from their local staff assemblies. Some key activities at UC campuses, LBNL, and UCOP during the fall 2008 semester included:

- Service awards
- Pancake breakfast
- Staff invited to serve on search for new chancellor
- Work Life Balance
- Annual food drive
- Mentorship program to begin in January 2009
- Conversation with CUCSA Delegates
- Participation in Multicultural Fair and Native American Council
- Campus seismic upgrades
- Hosted Women in Science Program
• Job Fair with more than 1,000 people attending
• Staff Assembly retreat for current and past boards
• Staff Art Show
• First annual turkey trot
• Sold entertainment books for staff scholarships
• Staff recognition program
• Benefits, sustainability, and fitness fairs
• Selected staff will get to “high five” the Sacramento Kings
• Holiday bazaar with staff selling their handmade gifts

Ricki Carr, Senior Delegate from Santa Cruz
Delegate Carr gave an overview of Santa Cruz’s assembly.

Randolph Scott, Executive Director, Strategic Planning and Workforce Development, Human Resources and Benefits, UC Office of the President
Discussed changes to the restructuring of Human Resources in the Office of the President. There will be no early retirement program; no salary increase for staff; discussed legal action that AFSME has filed with the Attorney General. As CUCSA sponsor he will provide communication and act as liaison to support our initiatives.