

Council of University of California Staff Assemblies (CUCSA)
Press Release, January 31, 2013
<http://www.ucop.edu/cucsa>

University of California, Davis
December 5-7, 2012

The Council of University of California Staff Assemblies (CUCSA) held its second quarterly meeting of the 2012-13 academic year at UC Davis on December 5-7, 2012. CUCSA 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 (UCOP). CUCSA meets on a quarterly basis rotating between the ten campuses, the national lab, and the Office of the President to promote, maintain and enhance communication within the University community on matters of interest to staff employees in accordance with California laws and Regental policies.

At the December CUCSA meeting, the leadership team and delegates discussed several major issues including the CUCSA Staff Engagement Survey, the Career Counseling Pilot Program, the CUCSA Alumni Network, the conversion of non-exempt employees to a bi-weekly pay cycle, and the latest developments on the issue of educational benefits for employees.

Nathan Brostrom, Executive Vice President, Business Operations, Office of the President

Executive Vice President Brostrom discussed the state of the University with delegates. The Administration is somewhat more optimistic due to the recent passage of Proposition 30 and the possibility of greater fiscal stability. However, he pointed out that this is just temporary relief since no additional funds were promised. EVP Brostrom also pointed out Governor Jerry Brown's increased engagement with UC. In recent decades, the State has been disinvesting in UC. At the same time, it faces the challenge of increasing contribution rates to the UC Retirement Program and the State has frozen capital programs. He discussed the progress of the Working Smarter Initiative that is focusing on creating efficiencies to streamline processes and save money.

Russell Gould, University of California Regent

Regent Gould shared with the delegates some of the financial challenges that the University of California has faced in his seven years as a Regent. He pointed out how higher education relies on the good will of the Governor for funding because it does not have a Secretary position like other state agencies do. There is a higher than average debt load on California students, which could present a real problem for middle class students. He also commented on the administrative efficiencies initiatives that started under the Commission of the Future. Delegates asked questions of Regent Gould including how the Regents are addressing staff-specific concerns and how staff can provide more input into administrative efficiency efforts.

Linda Katehi, Chancellor, UC Davis

Chancellor Katehi addressed the delegation during lunch at her residence. She shared a little about her background and why she was attracted to UC Davis. It's a relatively young university with a very accomplished faculty. She is very interested in working with staff to improve the University. Some things of which she is very proud include the quality of the students and the amount of research pursued by its faculty.

Ralph J. Hexter, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, UC Davis

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Hexter gave a presentation on Davis's budget model. He pointed out how core funds (tuition and state unrestricted funds) are going down and are now around 19% of total funds. Davis has been developing a major new model of revenue distribution looking at various revenue streams including undergraduate tuition revenue. The Provost's allocation is used in support of projects that serve the common good or larger mission, and tuition is allocated based on student credit hours, degree majors and degrees awarded. Their budget model is designed to encourage more attention to undergraduate teaching.

Jonathan Stein, University of California Student Regent

Student Regent Stein shared some of the priorities that he and Student Regent-Designate Cinthia Flores will be focusing on this year. They include reforms to financial aid, a student campus climate committee called Unite and professional degree issues. Another issue that he is interested in is diversity in upcoming Regental appointments and establishing some specific criteria for the appointments. He also commented on the tremendous voter registration efforts for the November elections resulting in 51,000 students across UC registering to vote. He sees the passage of Proposition 30 as a message that voters refused to accept the defunding of public education, although most people understand that we only achieved a one-year reprieve from tuition increases.

Charles W. Bamforth, Anheuser-Busch Endowed Professor of Malting and Brewing Sciences, Food Science & Technology, UC Davis

Professor Bamforth provided delegates with a brief overview of the history of beer and how it influenced the formation of cities. He regularly teaches a course on the nature and history of the brewing industry and the health effects of beer. Beer brewing also teaches about chemistry, plant science, agronomy, physics and many other areas including enzyme research. Beer researchers have even discovered enzymes that nobody knew about. They also work on foam, freshness and chemical manipulations to change the nature of the beer.

Stephen Chilcott, Executive Director, Human Resources, UC Davis Health System

Executive Director Chilcott shared information about some of the initiatives at the local UC Davis Medical Center (UCDMC) Human Resources, some of which tie into what is going on systemwide. In addition to the systemwide engagement survey, they have done their own employee engagement surveys including most recently in April 2012. On this survey, they ranked slightly higher than the national average as compared to other university healthcare systems. One item that scored high is the employee perception of their benefits. The most improved area over the previous survey was environmental responsibility. The biggest declines since the last survey were in area of adequate staffing in work units and balancing work and personal life.

Vincent Johnson, Chief Operating Officer, UC Davis Medical Center

Chief Operating Officer Johnson provided delegates with an overview of their strategic plan for 2011-2016. UCDMC is a 140-acre facility with over 16 sites for primary care throughout the region. He discussed efforts at improving customer satisfaction and environmental sustainability. He also shared some of their efforts at creating transparency in communication and decision-making. He pointed out that they are one of only 40 or so comprehensive cancer centers in the country. Practitioners are being encouraged or enticed to go into internal medicine so that they can grow the number of primary care physicians.

Thomas S. Nesbitt, Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Technologies and Alliances

Associate Vice Chancellor Nesbitt gave delegates a tour of the Tele-Health Facility.

Next Meeting

The next CUCSA quarterly meeting will be held at UC Santa Barbara on March 6-8, 2013. The final meeting for the 2012-13 year will be held at UCOP in June 2013.