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**TO:** The Academic Senate

**FROM:** Mitchell Watnik, Academic Senate Chairperson (2012-13)

**SUBJECT:** Annual Report of the Chair

**PURPOSE:** Information to the 2013-14 Academic Senate

**ACTION REQUESTED:** The Academic Senate accept the information and record the report below on its website.

The Academic Senate for 2012-13 had numerous notable achievements. Foremost amongst these was a dramatic overhaul of the Constitution and Bylaws. This process began with a Task Force over the summer of 2012, resulting in a report ([12-13 CAH 1](#)). Faculty Affairs took many of the recommendations and incorporated them into [12-13 FAC 9](#). These were not the only changes to the Constitution and Bylaws, though. In the Fall Quarter, the faculty approved [11-12 FDEC 2](#) (making the Faculty Diversity and Equity Committee status as a standing committee) and [12-13 FUFM 1](#) (lowering the number of student Senators). In the Winter Quarter, the faculty approved [12-13 CAPR 7](#) (allowing the AVP APGS to appoint a member of the committee, as had been practice). Along with the aforementioned overhaul, in the Spring, the faculty approved [12-13 CR 3](#) (changes to the Bylaws regarding Centers and Institutes, to bring them in line with [11-12 CR 2](#)). Officially, FDEC 2 and CAPR 7 were subsumed in FAC 9, as the Senate Office mistakenly failed to include the Article IX modification on the ballot for [11-12 BEC 4](#) and none of the elections had half the faculty vote. In the opinion of the Chair, there are still some needed modifications to the Bylaws, in particular. The duties of CAPR and COBRA overlap. Indeed, some of the wording in their respective sections is identical. Additionally, the definition of “quorum” for the Senate needs more specificity. The Chair would also like to see something done with the “Past Chair” position. This year, the Past Chair was absent for the entire year and this has been the case frequently in the past few years (e.g., the person who would have been Past Chair under Dianne Rush Woods was an AVP and did not serve in the role; the person who would have been Past Chair under Sue Opp was also an ASCSU Senator). Some campuses have the Past Chair role revert to an at-large member of ExCom when this is the case, or when the Chair is reelected.

The Academic Senate had the unusual, and perhaps unique, opportunity to speak with the Chancellor of the CSU, Tim White (see [the minutes of 2/26](#)). Chancellor White indicated that he felt that the system would benefit if CSUEB and the other quarter campuses converted to semesters. COBRA had a subcommittee, chaired by Pat Jennings, charged with providing an

estimate of the faculty cost of switching, which produced [12-13 COBRA 2](#). Besides the costs in WTUs, the subcommittee points out that, if this change were to occur, some systematic changes to the Senate may be needed during that period. Beyond the report of that subcommittee, the Chair believes that tying CIC to the Colleges may benefit the Senate.

The Senate Office had new appointees to its staff during the year. Sophie Rollins became the Administrative Analyst/Specialist and Endre Branstad was named the new Administrative Support Assistant. The Senate Office is the institutional memory of the body and the Chair hopes that Sophie and Endre are with us for many years to come.

The first University Administrative Review Committee (UARC) was convened this year and produced reviews of Provost Houpis and Associate Vice President Brian Cook. The Senate Chair (Watnik), Vice Chair (Eagan), and FAC Chair (Ginno) were elected to the committee. UARC is poised to review 3 deans and Associate Vice President Sue Opp next year.

The Senate rearranged its committees' meeting times for 13-14. FDEC was moved to Thursdays so that it is better positioned to work with CAPR on program reviews, as mandated by the new bylaws. COBRA was moved to Wednesday afternoons (filling FDEC's old time-slot).

The 13-14 Senate will have to contend with the recommendations of "Planning for Distinction". Many senators view this process with some trepidation, but there is some context to consider. In Summer, 2012, CAPR Chair Chris Chamberlain, Provost Houpis, AVP Opp, and I had a meeting. During the meeting, Provost Houpis noted that (at the time) all of the current program reviews recommended "continue without modification" and "needs more faculty". Given that fact, he concluded that he had carte blanche in making tenure-track hiring allocation recommendations to the President. In a certain sense, then, the PfD Instructional Committee, the overwhelming majority of which is non-administrative faculty, is going to give more meaningful input into the decisions than the faculty has previously. Indeed, as noted in the responses the Chair gave on behalf of the Senate Office to the support task group's questions, I think that CAPR should be the ongoing version of the instructional task group. (If that was to become the case, though, CAPR members would probably need to be tenured and would certainly need course releases.) In any event, I believe that the Senate should reinstate Section III of [05-06 CAPR 9](#) so that the faculty gets insight, if not input, into the decisions for how tenure-track allocations to departments are made.

The Chair commends CAPR for its new annual report template. It provides uniform information to the committee, as well as giving departments better guidance.

The Chair also commends the standing committee chairs: Jim Murray and Kyzyl Fenno-Smith of CIC, Liz Ginno of FAC, Kim Geron of FDEC, Chris Chamberlain of CAPR, Chris Baysdorfer of Research, and Meiling Wu of COBRA. The committees are where most of the work of the Senate is done and the chairs are the ones who set the agendas and oversee the documents. Fortunately for the 13-14 Senate, four of the six committee chairs are returning.