

December 7, 2006

ACADEMIC DEANS

RE: Student Participation in University Governance

As discussed at our recent Academic Council meeting, and given concerns raised by student leadership, I would like to re-emphasize the importance of student participation in school and departmental governance. UCI Campus Policy 70.0, University Obligations and Student Rights, outlines the importance of student input and our responsibility as administrators to make opportunities available for students to participate on committees. The full policy can be viewed at http://www.dos.uci.edu/judicial/uci_policy.php.

There are some instances where student participation is clearly inappropriate, such as discussions concerning academic personnel matters. In other cases, it may be best to have students serve on a committee as non-voting members. By and large, however, student involvement is critical at all levels of University governance. Student input benefits the institution in the form of fully-vetted decisions and policies that affect students' academic experiences, and benefits the students themselves as they grow to understand the complexity of the issues we face.

It should be noted that search committees for Deans and other senior administrators routinely include student members, and that most Academic Senate committees include formal provisions for student membership. I urge you to work with your department and committee chairs to ensure that processes are in place to seek and include student input at all appropriate venues.



Michael R. Gottfredson
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

C: ✓ AGS President
ASUCI President
M. Gomez, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs