UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ACADEMIC SENATE

Daniel L. Simmons
Telephone: (510) 987-0711
Fax: (510) 763-0309
Email: *Daniel.Simmons@ucop.edu*

Chair of the Assembly and the Academic Council
Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

June 24, 2011

MARK YUDOF, PRESIDENT
PETER TAYLOR, CFO
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: Senate participation on Working Smarter Project Teams

Dear Mark and Peter:

At its meeting on June 22, the Academic Council unanimously endorsed a request from UCFW for Academic Senate participation on each of the twenty-nine Working Smarter project teams. Council concurred with UCFW that all twenty-nine projects would benefit from faculty and end-user perspectives, and that user satisfaction must be a key success metric. Moreover, many of the Senate's standing committees are charged to advise on the topics that the projects are addressing. My office would be happy to assist you in identifying Senate faculty to advise the Working Smarter project teams.

Sincerely,

Daniel L. Simmons, Chair
Academic Council

Copy: Academic Council
          Martha Winnacker, Academic Senate Executive Director

Encl. (1)

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON FACULTY WELFARE (UCFW)
Joel Dimsdale, Chair
jdimsdale@ucsd.edu

Assembly of the Academic Senate
1111 Franklin Street, 12th
Oakland, CA 94607-5200
Phone: (510) 987-9466
Fax: (510) 763-0309

June 13, 2011

DANIEL SIMMONS, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

RE: Senate Participation in the Working Smarter Initiative
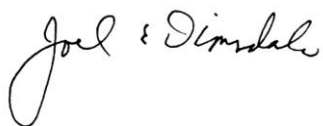
Dear Dan,

The University Committee on Faculty Welfare (UCFW) met in February with Kobie Crowder and Lisa Baird, who are the chief stewards of the Working Smarter Initiatives (WSI) program at the Office of the President. At that time, the WSI webpage was not functional, and many of the projects lacked team leads and rosters. Since then, however, the webpage has become live, and many of the 29 projects under this umbrella have populated their subsections.

UCFW remains concerned, though, about the lack of faculty representation on the majority of the project teams. While we are pleased that some of the rosters do include Academic Senate voices, literally all of these programs are of interest to the faculty. Indeed, many of the Senate's standing committees are charged to advise on the precise projects being undertaken, such as Library Efficiencies, Benefits Redesign, Liquidity Management, and Indirect Costs. The committee believes that all 29 projects would benefit from having not just faculty perspectives, but end-user perspectives, in addition to the upper administration perspectives currently represented.

Most pointedly, UCFW is concerned about the conceptual gap between faculty and the administration regarding the WSI process and goals. The overt goal is clearly to help the University save money by streamlining processes. But the best mode of realizing those savings is far less clear. Consider the Connexxus travel program: Faculty users of the program have a diametrically opposite view of it than the OP leaders who espouse it. Faculty users claim lower prices, greater flight flexibility, and quicker booking through outside sources; administration leaders claim the exact opposite. Furthermore, the sole metric of success for the program, utilization rate, is not a valid measure of success. Finally, UCFW feels that user satisfaction must be a key success metric to any and every program mandated from the Office of the President.

Considering the potential good and harm of each of these projects, including health and welfare insurance-related projects, research administration, budget planning, and application processes, exercising the Senate's right to Shared Governance seems imperative. In light of these and similar considerations, we ask that the Academic Council request Academic Senate participation on each of the 29 Working Smarter project teams.

Sincerely,

Joel E. Dimsdale, UCFW Chair

Copy: UCFW
             Martha Winnacker, Executive Director, Academic Senate