

# **What Did The UCLA Faculty Association Do For Me In 2002-2003?**

## **FALL, 2002**

### **HEALTHCARE: OPEN ENROLLMENT: BLUE CROSS?**

The FA organized a brown-bag-bagel luncheon for Friday, November 8 to help inform faculty about UC's switch to Blue Cross healthcare. Speakers: Tom Rosenthal, UCLA Medical Group, Lydia Oller, Campus HR, Lubbe Levin, Campus HR, Francine Chapman, UCLA Medical Group. About 65 to 75 people attended. For the highlights of this meeting, see [www.uclafaculty.org/BENEFITS/bbbNov2002.htm](http://www.uclafaculty.org/BENEFITS/bbbNov2002.htm)

### **RETIREMENT: AN INEQUITY IN UC'S SOCIAL SECURITY SUPPLEMENT**

The FA wrote a letter to the Assoc. VP Judy Boyette, Health and HR, in Oakland (and cc'd widely), about a problem in the Social Security Supplement at UC. The inequity in the UCRP plan concerns the Temporary Social Security Supplement, which currently stops at the end of the month of the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. The FA believes it should be continued to the end of the month in which the annuitant becomes eligible for full Social Security benefits. The FA sent copies of this letter to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Systemwide Academic Senate, the Chair of the Systemwide FWC, and the campus Chairs of the Academic Senate and the FWC. For a copy of the letter, see: [www.uclafaculty.org/BENEFITS/socsec2002.htm](http://www.uclafaculty.org/BENEFITS/socsec2002.htm)

## **WINTER, 2003**

### **SALARIES: GROWING % OF OFF-SCALE FACULTY; STOP COLA DELAY**

The FA researched the general topic of the growing number of off-scale faculty at UC. We published an in-depth article on the topic of UC faculty salaries in January 2003. In general, we found that the percentage of off-scale faculty at UCLA rose from 57% in 1995 to 75% in 2001. This article also reiterated the FA position that the COLA should not be delayed until Oct. 1 of every year and that a 1.5% COLA to staff and administrators was a larger salary supplement than a 5% contribution to CAP for faculty. To read a copy of this newsletter on the internet, go to [www.uclafaculty.org/Newsletters/salary\\_puzzle.htm](http://www.uclafaculty.org/Newsletters/salary_puzzle.htm)

### **COPYRIGHT: CLARIFICATION OF "EXCEPTIONAL UNIV. RESOURCES"**

The UCLA FA formally commented on the most recent draft (9/02) of the supplement to the University Copyright Policy (8/92). The FA objected to the possible inclusion of a faculty's use of a university-owned computer in the category "Exceptional University Resources." We also commented on the vague definitions of executive authority in interpreting University policy, particularly the use of Exceptional University Resources.

### **ACADEMIC CALENDAR: EMAIL POLL: SEMESTERS OR QUARTERS?**

In Feb., 2003, the FA conducted an email poll of FA members to determine their preferences about converting to the semester system or retaining quarters. We had a 36% response rate in which 65% of the FA members strongly opposed conversion to semesters, 14% opposed conversion, 4% were neutral, 3% supported conversion, and 14% strongly supported conversion. See the FA newsletter article on this subject [www.uclafaculty.org/Newsletters/](http://www.uclafaculty.org/Newsletters/)

### **UCLA PROF REVIEW: INTERNET SITE NEEDS PASSWORD PROTECTION**

A subcommittee of the FA Board first met with Larry Loeher, from OID. Then the FA set up a campus meeting chaired by Dwight Read with Duncan Lindsay, Chair of the Senate, Christopher Foote, Chair of ITPB, John Sandbrook, Assist. Dean; Arvli Ward, Director of Student Media, Avishair Shraga, student rep on BruinWalk; Donka Minkova, English; and Gordon Kipling, English, from the FA Board. We discussed issues such as the validity of the information on the site and the need for both password protection to read or write reviews as well as a disclaimer on the site stating the nature of the review posting process.

## **SPRING, 2003**

### **UC POLICIES: ACAD. CALENDAR & STUDENT RATINGS OF PROFESSORS**

The FA published a newsletter in April/May 2003 which looked at the Quarters or Semesters question in depth. Included was a summary of the findings of several UC polls on this issue conducted in recent years. The second article explored the problem of UCLA ProfessorReview, an internet site on Bruinwalk.com that allows students to post internet reviews of UCLA professors with few protections ensuring validity of the review scores.

## **SUMMER, 2003**

The FA responded to the announced change in APM 010. We noted in our response that the changes had been proposed during the summer when many faculty are away and that the response time for individual faculty should be extended from Sept. 15 to December.

([www.uclafaculty.org/UCPOLICIES/APM010.htm](http://www.uclafaculty.org/UCPOLICIES/APM010.htm))

The FA requested of the Director of BruinCard that the card be redesigned for faculty so that it could be used as an identification card here and abroad to get special discounts, including museum entrance and theatre tickets. On Sept. 15, Corporate Financial Services responded to the FA request and said that they determined that they could identify the title codes of faculty to enable differentiation of faculty from other academic staff. This change could be implemented beginning Fall Quarter. Faculty members with existing BruinCards need to go to the BruinCard Office and get a replacement card with the new designation beginning Monday, Sept. 22. There will be no charge for the replacement card provided that the faculty member turns in his/her original BruinCard.

To read this newsletter online go to [www.uclafaculty.org/Newsletters/sem\\_or\\_quarters.htm](http://www.uclafaculty.org/Newsletters/sem_or_quarters.htm) and [www.uclafaculty.org/Newsletters/ucla\\_profrev.htm](http://www.uclafaculty.org/Newsletters/ucla_profrev.htm)