Three Options Proposed for Systemwide Salary Cuts

Faculty, staff, asked to give feedback on the proposals.

By Kris Lovekin
On Wednesday, June 17, UCR received an update about the need for the UC system to implement pay cuts and/or furloughs to close a growing budget gap caused by economic difficulties in California. As a way of saving close to $200 million across the UC system, UC President Mark Yudof has suggested three options, which are posted at www.budget.ucr.edu.

All of the options result in a similar reduction in total yearly salary, but each varies in some details.

For instance, taking all holidays as furlough days will result in relatively lower pay cuts in December and January, about the lough days will result in relatively lower pay cuts in December and January, about the lough days will result in relatively lower pay cuts for those making more than $46,000 annually, and a 4 percent pay cut for those below that salary.

By the time they got to us, they were ready to go. They were so happy that we could help them quickly and get them on their way. Kim Lane, an editor in Strategic Communications and a veteran volunteer, talked about her “commencement miracle.”

Shortly after the ceremony ended, a lost, crying and distraught mother approached her asking help to find the family she had been separated from amidst a sea of thousands of people. She had tried to reach her daughter on a cell phone, but the noisy crowd made it impossible to hear a ringing phone.

She couldn’t remember where she had last seen them, so reconnecting the woman with her family seemed an unlikely possibility until the crowd cleared, said Lane.

“I didn’t know what else to do, so I just said ‘well, let’s walk over to the bell tower.’ I couldn’t believe it, there they were.”

Diane Viero, who directs the festivities for the Office of Event Management and Protocol, said even with all the hard work setting up chairs and preparing programs and booking speakers, the weather plays a big role in how the ceremonies go.

“Fortunately, it was cool. That has a big impact on health-related issues, how people feel, their temperatures and their experience.”

Speakers this year included Chancellor Timothy P. White, former Chancellor Ray Orbach, campus donor Gordon Bosuns and several successful UCR alumni, including Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Steven Breen, Nobel prize-winning scientist Richard Schrock, environmental attorney Joel Reyn olds and businessman Ted Weggeland.

Options are:

• Option 1: Pay Cuts Alone. An 8 percent pay cut for those making more than $46,000 annually, and a 4 percent pay cut for those below that salary.

• Option 2: Furloughs Alone. Holidays will be unpaid and other furlough days will be scheduled to equate to about the same amount of salary savings over the course of the year.

• Option 3: Some of Each. A 3.4 percent pay cut with enough unpaid holidays and furlough days to make up the rest of the salary savings.

Chancellor Timothy P. White is asking for campus feedback on the pros and cons of those proposals. He is asking that comments be sent by July 8 to budgetquestions@ucr.edu.

President Yudof will then present the three options (or some variation) and make a recommendation to the regents at their July 15-16 meeting.

“You will see that the document does not contain many specifics related to the kinds of questions you have raised to date,” White wrote in a letter to campus, referring to Yudof’s proposals.

In total, UCR is aware of your concerns and is working to develop answers. In the next week, UCP will post a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the UCP Website, along with responses.”

White said he, along with all of the chancellors, are advocating that the regents take action to protect retirement pay and service credits.

Based on interaction with UCP, White said UCR will take a minimum of a $40 million overall reduction, which may grow because of the continuing erosion of the state’s economy and the political decisions being made in Sacramento.

White said he will implement an already identified $15 million in specific unit reductions, plus another $2 million in chancellorial actions. Even with a UC-wide salary cut and/or furlough plan, the campus will still need to identify another $12 to $19 million in cuts for the 2009-10 academic year.

“You are never far from my mind,” White wrote in the letter to the campus. “I am painfully aware of the many sacrifices you and your families are making. I have heard of young couples trying to purchase new homes, older parents whose children have moved back in with them, families with multiple children in college. Each of these is heartbreaking, and I regret that we are faced with this difficult and distressing choice.”

By Kris Lovekin
A team of consultants will be surveying the campus this summer for ways to make UCR more accessible to people with disabilities.

The mission is to update campus compliance with the 1992 Americans with Disabilities Act and Title 24 of the California Building Standard Code.

“Any thing that prevents access on the main campus or at UCR Extension will be noted,” said Atienza. “We would call to them as they made their way toward the bell tower. “We are asking our campus staff and faculty to cooperate fully with the survey team, who will wear bright orange vests and carry identification cards.”

She said the survey will help develop a plan of action for changing anything that blocks access to campus facilities for students and/or members of the public. The company doing the work is Architerra MacRae Architects with National Access Consultants, Inc.

They will include information gathered at focus groups with staff, faculty, students and members of the general public.

A preliminary survey report will be drafted in late 2009 for review and public forums will be set in late 2009 and early 2010 to receive comments.

The final report including an implementation plan, scheduled for spring 2010, will indicate which changes have high priority so the campus can get those projects underway as time and resources allow.

“Priority will be given to making sure there is at least one accessible entrance to every building, and that students can get to their classes, their meals and other campus facilities,” said Takata.

A planning committee will include Lenita Kellstrand, director of special services, as well as representatives from housing, the academic senate, the affirmative action office, student affairs, the Associated Students of UCR, the Graduate Student Association and human resources.

“I’m really excited that this is being embraced on a campus wide level, so that everyone is buying into this project,” Kellstrand said.

She said one improvement on campus has already been made, with the construction of the new HUB building at the center of campus, because it provides a level path from the Surge building toward the bell tower.

“This new survey will allow us to know exactly what we need to achieve, and make plans to achieve it.”

To report access barriers for students or visitors on campus, send sugges tions to project manager Eileen Takata at Eileen.takata@ucr.edu.

Entrances, Walkways, Curbs and Pathways to be Surveyed

New for Faculty and Staff of the University of California, Riverside • Volume 5, Number 12 • June 24, 2009 • www.InsideUCR.ucr.edu

Bill Bingham and Al Chavez lead graduates as they enter the commencement ceremony for the College of Engineering. It was the final of seven ceremonies held June 12-15. Below, parents and students celebrate commencement.

By Kris Lovekin
More than 3,000 students walked in commencement ceremonies June 12 through 15, supported by more than 270 volunteers, including faculty and staff members.

“We really appreciate all the work you’ve done to get them to that place,” said Mike Abenza, an academic advisor for students earning degrees in media and cultural studies and women’s studies.

He worked at the candidate check-in table. One job was to help late arriving students as they ran with cap and gown in hand to the commencement registration tables.

“You can see that they are so distraught that they are about to miss their graduation,” said Abenza. “We would call to them as they approached the table, ‘What’s your last name?’ By the time they got to us, they were ready to go. They were so happy that we could help them quickly and get them on their way.”

A Cool Commencement

Kellstrand said.

“I didn’t know what else to do, so I just said ‘let’s walk over to the bell tower.’ I couldn’t believe it, there they were.”
Getting Personal

Name: Allison "Allie" Page
Job: Executive assistant to the dean
My work focuses on: Providing executive level sup- port to the dean and serving as a primary liaison to high ranking administrative, department chairs and senior staff. I interact with members of the business com- munity including donors, the Dean’s Advisory Board and community organizations. I am responsible for “Half of the World in Light: New and Selected Poems” by Renee Green. It is not unreasonable to expect them to act on it.

Who Says?

"It gives a message to Muslims that the United States is not going to impose its values, that the United States is equal to all countries in the world, and the Muslim world.”
Muhammad Ali, assistant professor of religious studies, on President Barack Obama’s recent speech in Cairo.

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

“...those were 'wivvers and orphans' of every tax debate, advanced to distinc- tion.”
Mason Gaffney, professor of economics, speaking about how the oil companies used the flawed argument that passing Proposition 87, which would have placed a tax on oil companies, would put small refineries out of business.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

“The variety and ubiquity of same-sex sexual behavior in animals is im- pressive — many thousands of instances of same-sex courtship, pair bon- ding and copulation have been observed in a wide range of species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, molluscs and nematodes.”
Eric Schritzgebelt, associate professor of philosophy, He and col- league, Joshua Rust of Stetson University, have written a paper that a college professorship in this does not necessarily translate into moral behavior on the part of the professor.

IN side HIGHER ED

Best Practices Recognized in Information Technology

UCR’s facilities reservation system and the R’Space portal were recognized as excellent informa- tion, professor of biochemistry, in the UC sys- tem at a June 16 UC Computing Services Conference at UC Davis.

All together, nine projects were recognized across the system as winners of the 2009 Larry L. Sau- tter Award.

Named for a former UCR employee, the annual awards pro- grams recognizes information tech- nology projects that advance the university’s mission of teaching, research, public service and patient care or that improve the effective- ness of business or administrative processes.

The facilities reservation sys- tem, which received a silver award, allows for the management of con- ference space, meeting rooms, labs, equipment and arts facilities. It was developed by a team led by James Lin, chief technology officer in College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.

R’Space, which received an honorable mention, was developed by Computing and Communications as a portal for staff. It includes com- monly used tools and resources, as well as a customizable interface. “When it comes to new systems and technology, we usually stand in line behind them. But with R’Space, it’s not only easy to use, but it is the only Web site I need to go to,” wrote Andy Plumeley, assistant vice chancellor of auxiliary services, for the portal nomination applica- tion.

Additional winners of the Sautter awards and the program descrip- tions are posted at www.ucop.edu/ itc/sautter.

Herrera Chosen for Best Poetry

Juan Felipe Herrera, professor of creative writing, was the 2009 award for best poetry book in English from Latino International Book Awards. The award for “Half of the World in Light: New and Selected Poems,” was presented during BookExpo America on May 28 in New York City.

The Latino International Book Awards recognize the contributions to Latino literature by publishers and writers around the world. “Half of the World in Light” won the National Book Critics Circle award for poetry earlier this year.

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

“...the downturn has convinced people it’s not a complete picture of eco- nomic development.”
Muhammad Ali, assistant professor of religious studies, speaking about how he has screened for post-specificity, meaning they feed exclusively on the pests you want to eradicate. Genetic engineering allows you to enhance the effectiveness of predatory bugs so that the insects eat the desired spe- cies and then starve themselves to death.”
Mark Hoddle, professor of entomology, on the new solution to ge- netically engineer predators that will help control the Asian citrus psyllid that has decimated the orange industry in Florida and has no known predators in America.

ALABABA NEWS CHANNEL

“The variety and ubiquity of same-sex sexual behavior in animals is im- pressive — many thousands of instances of same-sex courtship, pair bon- ding and copulation have been observed in a wide range of species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, molluscs and nematodes.”
Eric Schritzgebelt, associate professor of philosophy, He and col- league, Joshua Rust of Stetson University, have written a paper that a college professorship in this does not necessarily translate into moral behavior on the part of the professor.

IN side HIGHER ED

To become a media source or to announce upcoming published research or an award, contact the Office of Strategic Communications at (951) 827-6397 or (951) UCR-NEWS or insideucr.ucr.edu.

Did You Know?

Interested in the diverse his- tory of Native American culture? Check out UCR’s Center for Cali- fornia Native Studies. Policy-makers rely on the cen- ter’s research and resources to keep up with the revolutionary rates of change in Indian coun- try, especially in California. The center currently focuses on new opportunities for economic develop- ment and tribal government.

Find out more at ccs.ucr.edu.
Collected Essays of Fiction and the nonfiction coordinator and a science fiction peer-review finds same-sex not research & raised in their review.

"It's clear that same-sex sexual behavior is a nearly universal phenomenon, from worms to frogs to birds, across the entire animal kingdom, common across species, from worms to frogs to birds, across the entire animal kingdom, common across species, as well as the most genetically tractable organism that is currently available for this research."

How fast can evolution take place in less than a day? According to a new study on guppies led by Swanne Gordon, a graduate student in Andrew Hendry’s lab at McGill University, the answer is yes. Gordon and his colleagues in the laboratory of Dr. Andrew Hendry at McGill University, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, and the University of Osnabruck, Germany, have found that guppies can evolve in just a few days, a phenomenon known as "fast evolution." Their study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, suggests that this rapid evolution may be important for understanding the evolution of other species, including humans.

The study involved introducing a new predator to a population of guppies living in a river in Peru. The new predator, a large fish called a "jewfish," is known to be a good predictor of rapid evolution because it can quickly adapt to new environments. The researchers observed that the guppies that were most similar to the new predator were the most likely to survive and reproduce. They also observed that the guppies that were most different from the new predator were the least likely to survive and reproduce. This suggests that the guppies are adapting to the new predator in a way that is similar to the way that humans adapt to new environments, such as new jobs or new homes.

These findings have important implications for the study of evolution and for the development of new technologies. For example, they suggest that it may be possible to use fast evolution to develop new drugs or new technologies that are more effective than existing ones. They also suggest that it may be possible to use fast evolution to develop new strategies for dealing with new challenges, such as climate change or new diseases.
Youth Education Partnership Gets AmeriCorps Grant

Riverside youth will get some extra help with schoolwork as a result of a recent AmeriCorps grant. The University Eastside Community Collaborative (UECC) received $281,164 per year for the next three years to help provide approximately 1,300 Eastside youth with tutoring in language arts and mathematics at area schools. It also provides mentoring at area parks and community centers.

The University Eastside Community Collaborative is established in 1995 by then-UCR Chancellor Raymond Orbach, Riverside Mayor Ron Lavery and Anthony Lardieri, the superintendent of the Riverside Unified School District. Its mission is to help improve the quality of life for Eastside youth by providing unique educational and non-educational activities for students to help them succeed in school.

Maher added that biweekly community service events, such as cleaning up the park, graffiti paint outs and tree planting, are also a part of the program. "We are providing an achievement for performance but also strengthens the Eastside community through increased volunteerism," said James Sandoval, vice chancellor of this partnership. "Together we have a mission to help students and mentor them through undergraduate and graduate school and into teaching jobs in Moreno Valley."

Progress will be observed to determine the impact of the program on teacher performance, community service to the district, impact as a student role model, longevity to the profession and ability to assume leadership. The goal is to establish a model that can be replicated to shape teachers who will best serve the 21st century.

"The training infrastructure and curriculum are already in place at UCR, but we hope to expand on those elements to create a continuum of teacher preparation and development," Hyman said. "The result will be more than 40 new secondary mathematics and science teachers who are prepared and motivated educators within our partnership district." "The goal of the Noyce program is to increase the number of high-quality teachers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) who are prepared and motivated to face the educational challenges of high-need schools," Simani said. "Our Noyce scholars will have an important impact on the lives and careers of students and teachers in our partnering schools.""The UECC not only works to improve academic performance but also strengthens the Eastside community through increased volunteerism,” said James Sandoval, vice chancellor of classes. "We’re very pleased to be awarded this grant to continue the collaboration of this partnership.

NSF Grant Paves the Way for Future Teachers

By Todd Randson

An $87,443 National Science Foundation grant from the Robert Noyce Scholarships Program will fund a program that involves more than 50 classrooms in six middle and five high schools, support approximately 25 classroom teachers, and train and support approximately 2,000 students in the rapidly growing, low-performing Moreno Valley Unified School District. Surrounding school districts are also likely to benefit.

The grant was given to Pamela Clute, executive director of the Academy of Learning through Partnerships for Higher Achievement (ALPHA); Brad Hyman, professor of biology, and faculty director of Science Missions Initiative within the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences; and Maria Simani, director of the UCR P-20 Regional Alliance and future UCR Noyce program director.

"This grant allows us to capitalize on the university’s internal partnership between the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, the Graduate School of Education and the ALPHA Center for Academic Partnerships, “said Clute. "Together we have a mission to find the best students and mentor them through undergraduate and graduate school and into teaching jobs in Moreno Valley."

"The UECC not only works to improve academic performance but also strengthens the Eastside community through increased volunteerism,” said James Sandoval, vice chancellor of classes. "We’re very pleased to be awarded this grant to continue the collaboration of this partnership.

Campus Calendar

Ongoing

UCR/Columbia Museum of Photography (Exhibits) (through Aug. 29 unless noted)

Exhibition: "Sight Unseen," features work by 12 artists from around the world and explores the nature of photography in the digital age.

Exhibition: "Concrete Abstractions," presents the work of photographer Aaron Siskind, whose work was characterized by an abstraction from the reality of the world, in anticipation of the Abstract Expressionism of post-war painting.

AIDS Memorial Quilt, an ongoing traveling display of the NAMES Project Foundation, features an array of images, some classically styled desert landscapes, others nocturnal landscapes, and explores the paradox and revelation of the human experience.

Visiting" to Air at the Palm Springs Film Festival

A short film by Charles Eaverd, assistant professor of playwriting, will premiere at the 2009 Palm Springs International Film Festival’s ShortFest.

"Visiting,” which stars Amy Locane and James Waterston, is an official selection of the film festival and will screen June 24 and 26.

The film is about two "lost souls" who meet at a cemetery. Eaverd’s first feature-length film, "Adopt a Sailor," is an official selection at several film festivals this summer, including the Rainier Independent Film Festival in Ashford, Wash.; Urban/Suburban Film Festival in Philadelphia, Penn.; Reno Film Festival, Reno, Nev.; Stony Brook Film Festival in Long Island, N.Y.; and Louisville International Film Festival, Louisville, Ky. The movie also will be screened Aug. 18 in the Sedona International Film Festival’s Tuesday Night Film Series.

“Visiting,” which stars Amy Locane and James Waterston, is an official selection of the film festival and will screen June 24 and 26.

July

27 Thursday

Exhibition: "Smokeing in La Jolla, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., La Jolla, $44 (early registration fee).

27 Thursday


2 Thursday


2 Thursday


2 Thursday


2 Thursday