

Welcome back from the SCFA Executive Board and the 2015-16 Annual Report

September 23, 2016

This letter is being distributed to members of the SCFA.

Dear SCFA Member:

As the 2016-17 academic year begins, we would like to welcome you back to campus and encourage you to become active in the Santa Cruz Faculty Association.

As you know, the SCFA is a dues-supported membership organization, made up of members of the UCSC Academic Senate. SCFA is the only actual bargaining unit for a senate faculty in the UC system, and as such the administration is required to "meet and confer" with the SCFA on local issues. The administration is also required to "consult" with the SCFA on matters of systemwide significance. The Senate is a necessary part of shared governance of UCSC, but its power and authority are limited when it comes to matters of faculty welfare. SCFA is legally empowered to provide a voice to faculty outside the regular channels of the Academic Senate and administration. We are able to bring to the faculty's attention issues of concern that might not be publicized until after many decisions have already been made. SCFA actively advocates for the collective interests of UC Santa Cruz faculty and UC as a whole.

We spent much of last year negotiating with the university about the Revenue Sharing Agreement for online courses. We are near to a final agreement, and have been very pleased with negotiations so far. Some of us on the board are concerned about the future of online education and its impact on the quality of our teaching, but at this stage, all of us are committed to protecting the interests of participating and future faculty to the maximum extent. If online courses are successful, it will be largely due to the faculty, and we are working hard to ensure that faculty are compensated fairly and have maximum authority over course content and delivery.

We continue to monitor the Silicon Valley initiative, with an eye to labor issues.

We began an investigation of UCSC's contract with Academic Analytics, a private firm that analyzes faculty research impact and reputation. We have been advised of misuse of Academic Analytics material at other universities, and we are working to ensure that on our campus, no data from Academic Analytics are used in ways that could affect salary or other conditions of employment. This too is an ongoing issue that SCFA is monitoring.

Last year we met with representatives from the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), an advocate for university and college faculty nationwide. We are confident in the current leadership of AAUP and support many of their efforts, especially

around academic freedom. We encourage you to become a member of the AAUP along with the SCFA. The registration form with a considerable AAUP discount is available on our website at: <http://ucscfa.org/join-scfa-and-aaup/>

We were quite concerned when rumors surfaced in fall 2015 of another round of changes to our health plans. Thankfully, these did not materialize. We continue to monitor the situation, and encourage all faculty to communicate with us, with the Senate Committee on Faculty Welfare, and with the administration about any concerns regarding our health plan.

2015-2016 was our first year in many years without Shelly Errington as Chair. Shelly was sorely missed, but we wish her well and are grateful for the help and advice she continues to give. Ronnie Lipschutz was a tireless and effective chair the past year and we are very grateful for his service.

Elections: Elections this past spring resulted in the following Board membership: Karen Bassi, Ben Carson, Chris Connery and Ronnie Lipschutz will continue their current terms on the Executive Board. Hunter Bivens, Deborah Gould, and Vanita Seth have been reelected for a term beginning Fall 2017. We welcome Richard Montgomery and Megan Thomas who have now been elected as Board members and will take office October 1, 2017. It was agreed that Debbie Gould and Vanita Seth would Co-Chair fall term and Chris Connery will replace Vanita in January 2017.

Please encourage your colleagues to learn more about us by visiting [our website](#) and visiting the two websites maintained by CUCFA, <http://cucfa.org/> and <http://keepcaliforniaspromise.org/>, for a full archive of our activities on behalf of faculty.

Most importantly new members can now join us by [registering online](#).

With faculty participation, the FA is an effective political voice. Together, we decide how to use it.

Yours sincerely,

The SCFA Executive Board