

## ***Academic Receivership Task Force***

To the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils:

Academic Senate Chair Vivek Shetty and Acting Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Scott Waugh convened a joint Senate-Administration Academic Receivership Taskforce consisting of Elizabeth Bjork, Vice Chair of the Senate (Chair of the Taskforce); Roger Savage, Chair of the Graduate Council; Judith Smith, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education; Christopher Waterman, Dean of the School of Arts and Architecture and is staffed by Academic Senate CAO Jaime Balboa. The request for this task force derives from a general lack of clarity about what constitutes “Academic Receivership ” and the conditions under which a department or discipline may be put into receivership. Without specific guiding principles for this form of administrative intervention, UCLA (and perhaps the entire UC) “would be greatly served if the taskforce would provide the framework for a common understanding of ‘academic receivership’ and help operationalize the process” (Shetty and Waugh, Charge Letter, March 21, 2007). Chair Shetty and EVC&P Waugh requested that the taskforce:

- Define “ academic receivership ” as it is to be understood and utilized at UCLA and describe different administrative actions, including receivership, that could be used to restore or establish collegiality, functionality or academic standards in a particular unit;
- Describe the conditions within which a unit that might prompt some form of administrative intervention (by a dean, vice chancellor, etc.); when is an intervention warranted?
- Provide guidelines for academic intervention, including receivership, such as: how to determine whether an intervention is necessary, the step-by-step process by which an academic unit is placed in receivership, the conditions of receivership, the timeline for receivership, and how to determine when to end a receivership;
- Outline the various forms of administrative interventions, including receivership, available to reestablish concordance with the values of the academic community;
- Outline faculty grievance procedures under such circumstances;
- Relate the administrative intervention to Appendix V actions (procedures for the transfer, consolidation, disestablishment, and discontinuance of academic programs and units).

(Shetty and Waugh, Charge Letter, March 21, 2007).

As the Taskforce has studied and deliberated upon its charge, it became clear that revisions to Appendix XVI would speak to a number of concerns raised in the charge letter. The Taskforce hereby requests that the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils review, and if so inclined, approve the proposed amendments to Appendix XVI.

### **Justification**

Receivership recommendations historically have arisen from the recommendations of a program review. The process of recommending academic receivership is not specifically outlined within the language of Appendix XVI, which outlines the procedures for program review. However, ‘academic receivership’ is tacit insofar as the process outlines recommendations in general. This legislation will define and specifically state the definition of academic receivership while it contextualizes it in reference to other actions that the Graduate or Undergraduate Councils may initiate or recommend. Advising the administration to place an academic unit into Academic receivership is one option the Councils may elect when constructing their recommendations.



the request. If so, they will carry out preliminary fact finding to decide whether to grant the request. It is expected that requests for early reviews will be made infrequently.

## **19. Suspension of Admissions**

**Cause for the suspension of admissions includes, but is not limited to a program's failure to fulfill its teaching and research mission, disregard for student and faculty welfare, and the inability to deliver its programmatic offerings in an adequate manner to current or prospective student cohorts. A suspension of admissions may also be cause for the recommendation of academic receivership.**

## **20. Academic Receivership**

**Academic receivership is defined as the appointment of an individual external to the unit who will be vested with sufficient administrative authority to oversee implementation of the recommendations of the Councils. The appointment of a receiver falls under the purview of the relevant dean or provost. The receiver may be appointed chair, or may be charged to work closely with the chair as an administrative adjunct.**

**The Senate Report may include a recommendation to the relevant administrator that a unit be placed in academic receivership. Cause for the recommendation for receivership includes, but is not limited to cases where an academic unit is unable or unwilling to govern itself in accordance with the principles of shared governance, when it is in noncompliance with the Academic Senate's Program Review process, if it is failing to fulfill its teaching and research mission, where disregard for student and faculty welfare is evident;**

	<p>or where the inability to deliver its programmatic offerings in an adequate manner to current or prospective student cohorts is in evidence. In each case, the recommendation for receivership will be accompanied by a recommendation for an early review and conditions for lifting receivership.</p> <p><b>21. Appendix V Actions</b></p> <p>Should the unit under review prove to be unwilling, unable, or incapable of adequately addressing the issues that lead to a suspension of admissions and/or a recommendation for receivership, the Graduate and/or Undergraduate Council may initiate any of the actions set forth in Appendix V. In such an instance, the “Procedures for transfer, consolidation, disestablishment, and discontinuance of academic programs” will be followed.</p>
--	---

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Savage, Ethnomusicology  
Judith Smith, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education  
Christopher Waterman, Dean of the School of Arts and Architecture  
ELIZABETH BJORK, PSYCHOLOGY, CHAIR  
May 25, 2007

Cc: Vivek Shetty, Chair, Academic Senate  
Jaime Balboa, Academic Senate CAO  
Tom Nykiel, Principal Analyst for the Undergraduate Council