

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF JBC TO JOINT MEETING - 10/25/2007

The Chair of the JBC has been effectively isolated from information that would aid the analysis necessary in order to impact OP deliberations. The questions asked a year ago, and again six months ago have not had any response. There are signs that actions taken in forming the Open Enrollment packets this year have taken into account the issues raised by the unanswered questions, but again full particulars have not been provided, and that conjecture can not be confirmed.

Our request for a brainstorming session that might result in improvements for those who retired many years ago, and who are living near or below the poverty level, has been completely disregarded, even though this matter was raised with Judy Boyette seven years ago, and recognized as a matter that should be explored.

OP has continued to include the Chairs of CUCEA and CUCRA in deliberations, but with the admonition that information provided can not be shared with anyone! The latest action reported---the expected inclusion of the Chairs as ex-officio members of the UCRS Advisory Committee, continues this policy, although when we requested such membership 12 years ago, and our request was denied, our conclusion was that membership really was unnecessary, and probably undesirable, as long as we had the ability to attend all Board meetings, with privileges of the floor. Of course that was at a time when the Board actually officially voted on actions, rather than simply proposing specific actions to the President of the University, to whom they are advisory. The only difference in the future will be the placement of the two individuals in the room at meetings---at the table, rather than on the side of the room---and the ability to attend "executive sessions," which have here-to-for been a mystery to those not allowed to attend them, although the topics discussed in those sessions were supposed to be disclosed as a part of the minutes of the Board.

While one may consider these comments from the Chair as the result of paranoia, I remind you that even paranoids have enemies!! The Chair may very well be viewed by OP like they view Professor Charles Schwartz, who is considered a gad-fly, who should be ignored. If changes are not forthcoming, we will have to work through other individuals, who bear the recognition and support of the OP staff. I can happily report that the JBC membership has been significantly strengthened by the addition of Errol Mauchlan, Louise Taylor, Jack Fisher and Larry Pitts, at least one of whom has been deeply involved in a variety of formal consultative bodies of the University.

If CUCEA and CUCRA are satisfied with the current arrangement, than I believe the JBC should essentially be closeted, or shut down completely. Or, one of the two Chairs should be named Chair of the JBC, since they would have the information necessary to raise issues for JBC consideration. However, the problem with this arrangement is the temporary nature of these individual's appointments, which for CUCEA is only one year, and for CUCRA, generally two or four year. Continuity has been an essential element for the success of the JBC in the past, but OP has rendered that useless at this point.

Adrian Harris
Chair, JBC
10/25/2007