Standing Committee Charge: Academic Affairs Committee. There shall be a standing committee known as the academic affairs committee. It shall have seven members elected by the faculty senate, serving two year staggered terms. The chairperson of the university faculty shall annually appoint an individual who is both a member of the committee and a member of the faculty senate to serve as the chairperson of this committee. The committee on committees shall nominate, when feasible, two persons for every vacancy of the committee. The academic affairs committee shall investigate and make recommendations for faculty senate action concerning any educational or academic policy or practice at the university, or any proposed practice or policy, that is referred to the committee by the university faculty, the faculty senate or the chairperson of the university faculty. One or more of its members may serve as faculty senate representative and liaison to all university committees responsible for academic affairs.

Committee Membership: All members were new to committee for 2010-2011.

Adrianne Lane (NURS), Chair 2009-2011
Julie Gill (RWC) 2009-2011
Nelson Horseman (MED) 2009-2011
Beverly Reigle (NURS) 2009-2011
Noriko Tsurui (A&S) 2010-2012
Jun Ying (MED) 2010-2012
Teresa Roig-Torres (RWC) 2010-2012

Committee Activities:

The FSAAC met eight times during the academic year with meetings in October, November, December, February, March, April, May, and June.

Topics reviewed by the FSAAC included the following: Snow/Inclement Weather Policy, Intensive Personalized (High Touch) Student Support Document from Office of the Provost, Undergraduate Grade Grievance Procedure, Semester Conversion Bridge Courses, BoK Coding and Semester Conversion, Information and Media Literacy, Student Code of Conduct, University Grading Policy: Proficient/Not Proficient, No Grade and Other Grading Issues coupled with New OBR Rule, Student Government concerns related to the relationship between class size and quality educational outcomes and the relationship between teaching evaluations and the tenure, and UC Forward. Related to the Undergraduate Grade Grievance Policy, the FSAAC approved changes as submitted by the Ombuds Office to align with semester
conversion. Specific to this action, the FSAAC also recommended that the policy be revisited for a thorough review with possible revisions since the date of origin was 1992.

Two key agenda topics of the FSAAC this academic year focused on grading: Undergraduate Grievance Policy Review and Assignment of Student Grades. Thus, the FSAAC has committed that in 2011-2012 the committee will initiate a thorough review of the current UC grading policy and procedures.

The FSAAC put forth two (2) resolutions that were subsequently passed by the Faculty Senate at the June 9, 2011 meeting. One resolution was titled ‘Resolution on Grading’ and one was titled ‘Taskforce on Academic Integrity for the 21st Century. Both resolutions in entirety are listed below.

Thank you to all committee members for their tremendous effort and quality work.

Resolutions:

1. Faculty Standing Committee on Academic Affairs Resolution on Grading
   Passed June 9, 2011 by Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Resolution concerning the Assignment of Student Grades

   Whereas grade assignment is the prerogative of faculty,
   Whereas grade assignment is solely based on student performance, and not legislative, economic or other external forces,
   Whereas data specific to NG grades for academic years 2006 to 2010 at UC does not indicate that use of NG grade has substantially increased,
   Whereas the current OBR legislation is related to subsidy for Completer grades and a focus on the NG grade does not address the core issue of loss of subsidy related to assignment of Non-Completers,

Be it resolved that,

   Faculty Senate affirms the use of the current grading policy as approved in 2003,
   Faculty Senate reaffirms a prior Senate resolution which acknowledges that faculty have a responsibility to grade their classes,
   Faculty Senate acknowledges that faculty has a responsibility not only to assign valid final grades to all students but to submit final grades to the University Registrar by the established deadline each term,
   Faculty Senate is not supportive of removing NG or other Non-Completers (F, I, IX, I/F, NP, T, U, UP, UW, W, WX, X) from the online grading system,
Faculty Senate asserts that awarding state subsidy based on grades signifying course completion produces a potential economic incentive to assign grades that earn subsidy rather than grades earned by the performance of the student... thus undermining the integrity of grade assignment.

Lastly, Faculty Senate notes its concern with the possible unintended consequences of the new OBR subsidy formula in that it raises the potential moral hazard involved in introducing institutional economic concerns into the dynamics of grading, which must solely reflect analytical assessments of classroom performance.

2. Academic Affairs Motion for Taskforce on Academic Integrity in the 21st Century
   Passed June 9, 2011 by Faculty Senate

Be it resolved, that a Taskforce on Academic Integrity in the 21st Century shall be formed with the following charge and structure:

1) investigate the prevalence of academic misconduct including cheating, ethical and legal use of information, plagiarism, honor code, etc. at UC (this may be achieved via focus groups and/or academic forums ---- Dialogue is critical to this assessment)

2) recommend a detailed action plan for strengthening Academic Integrity at UC (this plan should include a focus on faculty and student development)

Core to this charge is that this should not be a top-down initiative but instead driven by faculty and student desire for a strong culture of Academic Integrity at UC --- the desired focus for this task force is to be on the positive aspects of integrity in contrast to the punitive aspects of violations.

Membership of the task force should include, but not be limited to, representatives from Faculty Governance, UG Student Government, Graduate Student Government, Associate Dean/Faculty Administrator, and Faculty Members with strong IT knowledge. The Chair of the University Faculty in coordination with student groups and administration and in consultation with Senate Cabinet shall appoint the Task Force to begin work in early Fall 2011 with a delivery of recommendations no later than February 6, 2012. The Task Force report will be delivered to the FSAAC, which will complete its review and report to Senate at its March 8, 2012 meeting.