Chair Joanna Ho called a regular meeting of the Irvine Divisional Senate Assembly to order at 3:30 pm on Thursday, February 3, 2022 via Zoom Teleconference. Chair Ho requested that any members of the press present make themselves known, and noted that no hands were raised.

1. **Conforming Changes to Appendix IX: Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees**
   Chair Ho explained that this is an annual review of degrees in the Senate Manual, updating it to conform to any changes made during the previous academic year. Chair Ho noted that the Cabinet approved these conforming changes on November 2, 2021.

   Members voted 29-0-0 to approve the modifications and 26-0-0 to make the changes effective immediately. The vote took place electronically following the meeting.

2. **Conforming Change to Regulation 607: Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences**
   Chair Ho explained that the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences changed the name of its Computer Game Science degree to Game Design and Interactive Media, effective Fall 2021, requiring a conforming change to the ICS regulations in the Senate Manual. Chair Ho noted that the Cabinet approved this change on November 2, 2021.

   Members voted 27-0-0 to approve the modification and 25-0-2 to make the change effective immediately. The vote took place electronically following the meeting.

3. **Revisions to Appendix I: Bylaws of the Faculties**
   Chair Ho presented the following revisions to Faculty Bylaws noting that these items are informational only, having already been approved by the Senate Cabinet and requiring no vote by the Assembly:
   - Minor revisions to Chapter I: The Paul Merage School of Business to expand the pool of eligible candidates for Faculty Chair-Elect and Personnel Committee Chair-Elect; approved by Cabinet at its January 18, 2022 meeting.
   - Revisions to Chapter V: The Henry Samueli School of Engineering to add the Dean or Dean’s designated representative, ex officio, to the school’s research committee; approved by Cabinet at its November 2, 2021 meeting.
   - Revisions to Chapter XII: School of Law made to add a process by which faculty can require the Dean to call a faculty meeting for urgent business and to clarify the counting of abstentions; approved by Cabinet at its January 4, 2022 meeting.

4. **In Memoriam**
   Chair Ho announced that the Academic Senate received notice of seven faculty colleagues’ passing and invited members to review extended remembrances in the meeting materials and on the Senate website.

   - *Lim, Henry (1936-2021)*
5. Research Data Security and Related Issues

Chair Ho introduced Kian Colestock, Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer, and Phil Papadopoulos, Director of the Research Cyberinfrastructure Center, to make a presentation on research data security at UCI.

Assistant Vice Chancellor Colestock began by noting that these security initiatives will be introduced by the Chancellor and Provost to the schools directly. He explained that these changes are in response to the potential for cyberattacks, especially those that hold research data for ransom, and changes being made at federal funding agencies such as the Department of Defense and Department of Justice requiring contracting partners and grant recipients to maintain higher security standards. He noted that the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation are expected to implement similar security requirements for universities. AVC Colestock provided an example of a high-profile data breach at UCSF, and said that ransomware attacks cost universities millions of dollars per incident due to being a forward-facing public entity with a ‘large attack surface.’

AVC Colestock explained that all data belongs to the University, and that ultimate responsibility for security lies with the Deans; according to policy, they are responsible for the costs associated with breaches in their units. He noted that the most frequent point of attack is at the individual level, targeting PIs to compromise their credentials. Faculty PIs and research teams should therefore take required security training; use campus-approved IT services and end points (computers, laptops, etc.); store and backup data to a secondary location; and follow all security regulations in contracts and grants.

Director Papadopoulos presented information about the existing research data storage options available:

- Sherlock, managed by the San Diego Supercomputer Center, provides the highest-level security and conforms to Department of Defense and National Security Agency specifications.
- Solutions such as Microsoft OneDrive provide medium-level security.
- The Campus Research Storage Pool (CRSP) and Google Drive provide the lowest level of security and are convenient for non-sensitive data and shared documents.

A member asked about graduate student access to Sherlock. Director Papadopoulos clarified that they can have access to the PI’s instance after completing the required training and onboarding process.

Other members asked about Dropbox and Box, and why they were left off the list of supported storage spaces. Director Papadopoulos explained that these platforms can be used to collaborate with others when it is their data, but they are not supported for UCI-owned data. He also noted that there is a limit to what UCI can support in terms of bandwidth and funding. AVC Colestock added that the University of California attempted to get contracts with both Box and Dropbox, but they did not meet the UC’s minimum-security requirements.
Director Papadopoulos expressed that individual faculty have thus far been left relatively on their own to set up research data spaces, but that changes in the coming year address data security and include backup solutions for laptops, desktops, and large data sets; additional cloud storage; additional campus IT services to comply with requirements; and a research security website.

AVC Colestock described a successful phishing attack over winter recess, pointing to the need for security changes related to email. These include enforcing use of Duo multi-factor authentication for Gmail and Office 365 and transitioning away from legacy email platforms to more secure options. He explained that Webmail is particularly vulnerable, and cannot be patched or updated to meet new security requirements; it will be phased out entirely in favor of more secure platforms such as Gmail and Office 365. Additionally, all email to and from campus will use a single gateway and will be scrubbed for malicious attachments and links. Several members expressed concern about a smooth email transition. Director Papadopoulos assured members that the transition will happen incrementally and will be coordinated with each school’s IT team.

Other expected changes include disconnection from the network of systems that do not meet required patching levels; implementation of a systemwide policy standardizing security requirements across the system; self-service and facilitated risk assessments; and the migration of large and high-risk data sets in Google Drive to other storage options.

6. **Announcements by Chair Joanna Ho**

Chair Ho referred members to the 2020-21 Annual Reports of the Standing Committees, available online.

Chair Ho also referred members to the Mitigating COVID-19 Impacts on Faculty Working Group Preliminary Report, noting the Senate Cabinet was asked to review the report and prioritize recommendations for future action at UCI in the context of measures already in place. Chair Ho reported that she and Chair Elect Striedter met with Vice Provost O’Dowd to share those recommendations.

Members had quite a bit of discussion about this report and these issues in general. One member felt that the administration never fully acknowledged how hard faculty were hit by COVID-19 with regard to childcare and other issues. They also thought that the Stop the Clock (STC) policy regarding tenure did not go far enough, and felt that some faculty needed 2-3 years of STC.

Several members raised concerns over disparities in different departments, schools, and fields as to the impacts of COVID-19. For example, book publications were significantly delayed during the pandemic; for colleagues in book fields, you either “have a book or you don’t” when you come up for tenure. Another member noted that for very junior colleagues who started during the pandemic, they lost 2-3 years of access to senior colleagues who serve as mentors during the early stages of their careers. Other issues raised included staffing issues in some fields; for example, some labs have been unable to retain personnel, citing the “Great Resignation.” Loss of staff in certain areas has also put an additional administrative burden on some faculty.
Many members also had concerns about salary gaps because of STC, particularly gender pay gaps, as colleagues who stop the clock may delay a step. Chair Ho noted that the UC budget includes a 4% increase for on-scale salary and a 1.5% equity adjustment. Some members suggested that the equity adjustment should be targeted to those faculty who used STC. Chair Ho reminded members that the STC policy includes a retroactive pay increase. Lastly, she noted that the Provost plans to continue the $1 million Interim COVID Research Recovery Program for another year, as well.

Finally, there was some discussion about “achievement relative to opportunity.” While CAP is conducting its reviews guided by this principle, it was also suggested that resources and effort should be put into training faculty and chairs on this concept. Chair Elect Striedter recommended that to help guide CAP, COVID impact statements should be provided not only by individual faculty but also by departments, describing how COVID impacted their faculty. He noted that even within a department there are varying impacts and it is important to have well-reasoned impact statements, and for the chair’s letters to put things in context.

Chair Ho adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Matthew Hurley
Attest: Georg Striedter, Chair Elect-Secretary, Academic Senate, Irvine Division