Chair Joanna Ho called a regular meeting of the Irvine Divisional Senate Assembly to order at 3:32 p.m. Chair Ho requested that any members of the press present make themselves known, noting that no hands were raised. She also introduced the new Executive Director of the Academic Senate, Jisoo Kim.

1. Update from the Campus Safety Work Group
   Chair Ho introduced Doug Haynes, Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, to provide an update from the Campus Safety Work Group, and its progress in making recommendations to improve UCI’s campus safety.

   VC Haynes gave an overview of how UCI’s campus safety plan aligns with the systemwide framework. He provided some background on this issue, noting that it began with a 2017 Senate report calling for an advisory committee, which led to the establishment of the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). Last year, PSAC issued its report on the Transformation of Public Safety in the UCI Community. Chancellor Gillman endorsed PSAC’s recommendations and created a work group responsible for their implementation. Following the killing of George Floyd, increased focus on racial justice became a topic for renewed discussion, and in June 2021, a Draft Presidential Campus Safety Plan was sent to all campuses for comment.

   The Draft Presidential Campus Safety Plan outlines the need for a definition of safety that reflects the university community’s needs, stresses that safety must be holistic in providing various resources, commits to transparency and utilization of data, and calls for the creation of an independent accountability board.

   These guidelines align with PSAC’s recommendations to develop a mission statement and set of core values for public safety, develop a holistic campus safety framework and definition of expectations for safety, improve data collection and management, and construct a more responsive complaint investigative process and means of providing feedback that elevates public safety expectations and community standards.

   To this end, the work group has been active in developing a campus safety framework around principles of safety, security, and justice; developing and administering a community safety survey; and studying models for community review boards. The Office of Inclusive Excellence (OIE) is also introducing a new module in the Inclusive Excellence Certificate Program that explores the three defining principles of campus safety.

   VC Haynes reminded members to respond to the community safety survey that is open now through March 25. The survey is designed to assess interactions and perceptions towards UCIPD, use of relevant services and programs, and to collect suggestions for improving safety for all. Results will be shared through the OIE data dashboard and community town halls this spring.
A member asked how many responses have been received to date, and from what constituencies. VC Haynes reported that they are approaching 2,000 responses with the highest activity among faculty and staff. He noted that OIE is engaging with Student Affairs in hopes of increasing student participation, especially among historically over-policed and underrepresented communities on campus.

Chair Ho encouraged all Assembly members to participate in the survey.

2. Minutes from the February 3, 2022 Divisional Senate Assembly Meeting
Chair Ho called for any discussion of the minutes, for a motion to approve, and a second. She noted that instructions for voting online would be provided following the meeting.

Members voted 28-0-1 to approve the minutes.

3. Proposed Modifications to Irvine Regulation A350.A
Chair Ho described the current policy and presented the proposed revisions to Irvine Regulation A350.A, The Passed/Not Passed Option (P/NP), as proposed by CEP. Chair Ho explained that the regulation currently states that a grade of Passed shall be awarded only for work which would otherwise receive a grade of C or better. The revision would modify the regulation to state that a grade of Passed shall be awarded only for work which would otherwise receive a grade of C- or better. Chair Ho noted that CEP consulted with Registrar Elizabeth Bennett and Vice Provost Michael Dennin, and that the change is in alignment with systemwide regulations that leave it to each division to determine whether the minimum standard of performance for a grade of Passed shall be C or C-.

CEP Chair Melanie Cocco provided additional information and explained the motivation for the change. The proposed change is intended to address an equity issue for students receiving financial aid, who are assessed annually for whether they have met the threshold for passing 67% of units attempted. She explained that students who do not meet this threshold must pay back all financial aid. Under the current regulation, students who receive financial aid may not take advantage of P/NP grading to explore new courses, as a grade of C- is equivalent to Not Passed. For financial aid purposes, receiving a grade of C-counts as a passing grade but receiving a grade of Not Passed does not.

A member asked whether this change would be retroactive. Chair Cocco clarified that the policy in place when the student took the course would apply and this change would not apply retroactively.

Chair Ho called for a motion and a second to approve the change, and for motions to make the change effective immediately upon approval. Chair Ho noted that we are working on revising the divisional bylaws so we will not have to wait for legislation to be effective or take a second vote each time.

Members voted 23-1-2 to approve the modification and 29-1-1 to make the change effective immediately. The vote took place electronically following the meeting.

4. Announcements by Chair Joanna Ho
Chair Ho announced that CEP has developed guidelines for a temporary, one-quarter exemption from in-person instruction with approved accommodations from Disability
Management Services, noting that a revised course plan must be submitted for long-term remote teaching needs. A member asked how this applies to the law school, which is on the semester system. Graduate Council Chair Arvind Rajaraman noted that GC just voted on a similar policy, and would consider adding the semester option if applicable.

Chair Ho raised the issue of faculty who took sabbatical during the pandemic but could not fully utilize their leave due to childcare or other issues. She reported that Senate leadership met with Vice Provost for Academic Personnel Diane O’Dowd to discuss returning full or partial sabbatical credits to impacted faculty, and noted that both the Vice Provost and Provost Stern were supportive. It is expected that a program for return of sabbatical credits from Winter 2020 to Winter 2022 will be announced shortly. A review committee, to include Senate representation, will review requests for full or partial return of sabbatical credits. One member asked how this program will be announced to faculty. Chair Ho understands that impacted faculty or their units will be contacted directly, but she will follow up with Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Development Nina Bandelj for confirmation.

Chair Ho reported that several Native and Indigenous faculty members sent a letter to Provost Stern expressing concerns about lack of campus resources for Native students. The provost is looking at resources to support these students, and the chancellor has put together a committee to draft a suitable land acknowledgement for the campus. Vice Chancellor Haynes will lead this group and may ask for a representative from CEI to serve.

Finally, Chair Ho asked council chairs to give brief updates on the work going on in their councils. The chairs of CEI, CEMA, CEP, CPB, and GC gave brief reports, and Chair Ho read a report submitted by CAP Chair Lisa Naugle.

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