August 31, 2011

Dear UCLA Senate Colleagues,

I hope that this finds you all well and that you are enjoying what remains of the summer. As September approaches and my term as UCLA’s Academic Senate Chair comes to an end, I cannot help but reflect on the extraordinary year that we have experienced as a University. Despite the obvious financial challenges that have confronted our state and the UC system, there has been continued emphasis by our Senate and the Administration on maintaining UCLA’s quality as a research university. The exceptional faculty at UCLA, whose honors and accomplishments continue to grow each year; the phenomenally talented and enthusiastic students; and our excellent and dedicated staff all speak to that quality.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my position has been the opportunity to get to know so many of you and to be able to appreciate first-hand the thoughtful insights that UCLA faculty routinely contribute to the work of the Senate. Despite the exceptionally busy lives that you all lead, with engagement in important scholarly work and effective teaching that are so critical to this university, you found time to contribute your talents to the deliberative activities that are the hallmark of the UC system of shared governance. For that dedication and service, I am most grateful. Only a sampling of the many activities in which the Senate has been engaged this year may be seen at our UCLA Senate website. There you will see documentation on the specific issues that have confronted our UCLA Senate, the UC Systemwide Senate, and various Senate committees. The results of the recently completed 2010 UCLA Faculty Welfare Survey indicate that, despite ongoing concerns about the state budget climate and the effects of last year’s furloughs, faculty members are more strongly bound by common institutional commitment, and by common challenges, than separated by their disciplines. Together, there is much that we can do to deal with the challenges that confront us all, and to preserve the excellence in our great institution.

Again, many thanks to all of you for your dedication to UCLA. I know that my successor as Senate Chair, Professor Andrew Leuchter, will be able count on your support and continued contributions in the coming year.

With warm regards,

**Ann Karagozian**
UCLA Academic Senate Chair, 2010-11