Dear Colleagues,

As instructed by the UC Office of the President (UCOP), Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Hal Stern recently distributed a self-attestation form asking Senate faculty who withheld labor during the strike to report on the work that they withheld. Release of this form raised many questions and caused widespread consternation. Ultimately, every faculty member will have to decide for themselves whether or how to complete the form. It is important to reiterate, however, that faculty members who merely supported the strike, but did not withhold labor, are not asked to complete the form. Moreover, the Administration has assured the Senate that faculty members who did not (or could not) complete grading because of struck TA labor will not have their pay withheld.

On a more positive note, the Senate is pleased to report that virtually all fall quarter grades have now been submitted. One way or another, our instructors found ways to complete their grading and thus minimize any negative impacts on undergraduate students. This is excellent news and demonstrates that our faculty are to be commended for their grit and adaptability.

Now that the UAW strike is behind us, the campus as a whole must focus on its long-term consequences and prepare for a changed landscape at UCI. As we consider a host of issues and questions, the Senate will convene a formal Task Force on the strike’s long-term impacts and offer the following engagement opportunities for Senate faculty at large:

- Senate Chair office hours open to all Senate faculty (RSVP)
- Town Halls held jointly with the Provost (details pending)

These discussions will raise some difficult issues and challenging questions, but we will find a way to navigate the new realities brought on by the strike. I appreciate and welcome your participation.

Sincerely,

Georg Striedter, Chair
Academic Senate, Irvine Division