Q1. When will UCR come to an agreement about wages for clerical staff that have not had a raise in over 4 years now? We have seen other unions reach an agreement with UCR but not CUE.

A1. Matters related to compensation are subject to the system wide collective bargaining process, which requires give and take from both parties. The University remains committed to reaching a full contract agreement with CUE-IBT, the exclusive representative for clerical employees. Such an agreement is required before the University can provide a salary increase to clerical employees. To that end, the University and CUE-IBT have been actively engaged in discussions, with the assistance of a mediator, with the objective of reaching a resolution as soon as possible. Meetings are ongoing and we are hopeful that an agreement will soon be reached.

Q2. I am a sophomore at UCR. One of the many issues I face everyday is parking. Parking nearly takes me 45 minutes in Lot 30 and not only does it take this long, but I am wasting my gas as well, and my car is a lease, so I am also adding miles.

A2. Parking demand is at its peak during the first few weeks of fall quarter. You will want to arrive early to give yourself time to find a space. Student commuter parking is also available in Lot 50 around Highlander Hall so you may want to try that location (next to University Extension) as an alternative. We also still have “Gold Plus” parking permits available that assign parking in Lot 13, to the east of Chemical Sciences. The Gold Plus permit costs a bit more, but you will be able to find parking in Lot 13.

As a longer term solution, the campus is seriously looking at expanding surface parking for commuter students. A new lot may be constructed as soon as next summer.

Have you considered Alternative Transportation? Check out the options that the campus offers at http://www.parking.ucr.edu/index.php?content=services/alternative_transportation.html

Currently enrolled students may ride any RTA bus at any time for free by swiping their UCR student ID card. Do you know another UCR student with whom you could carpool? If you live farther from the campus, joining a UCR vanpool route may be an option.

Q3. My main question is why our trolley got shut down, when our tuition raised? These two negatives definitely didn't create a positive for students.

A3. The campus shuttle service, comprised of two routes named the Trolley Express and Braveheart Loop was suspended indefinitely in June. Students, staff and faculty may still ride on any RTA public bus route for free. RTA routes 1, 10, 16, 51 and 53 serve the UCR campus directly.
The campus shuttle service was funded solely with revenue from parking permits and was operated and staffed by Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS). The campus shuttle service did not receive money from the state, the university, or from student fees. Due to the unprecedented impact of the campus’ budget crisis, the two options were to either dramatically increase parking permit fees or to cut services. The campus regrets the need to suspend the service and the inconvenience it is causing many students.

Q4. Perhaps a good topic could be the Dream Act. Someone should try, with a straight face, to explain to California residents, U.S. Citizens, why exactly illegal aliens are entitled to free college education and California residency with U.S. tax payers footing the bill, while simultaneously cutting existing aid and raising tuition on students that are actual residents and citizens, forcing them to take out tens of thousands of dollars in student loans.

A4. The Dream Act does not provide a free college education, but it does allow for all students who qualify for a nonresident tuition exemption under AB 540, including those who are undocumented, to be eligible to participate in all state-administered financial aid programs and all institutional financial aid at the UC, CSU, and CCC, to the extent allowed by federal law.

The California Dream Act promotes individual responsibility by encouraging students who have been raised as Californians to become responsible educated adults and productive members of our communities. These future citizens may become teachers, doctors, and engineers and productive members of our workforce. It is in the best interest of our state’s economy to have an educated workforce to provide the innovation necessary to keep California competitive in the global economy.

The success of the future lies in the youth of today. The California Dream Act provides an important step toward meeting the goal for student access to our higher education system and increase our educated workforce population to rebuild and sustain our economy.

Q5. What are the future plans for the Palm Desert Graduate Center?

A5. The success of the Palm Desert Center is closely tied to the success of the School of Medicine. With its proximity to the freeway, the Center is strategically well located for placement of an ambulatory clinical site. This would involve a partnership that would offer both clinical care to area residents as well as graduate medical education for UCR students. The idea would be to secure funding to construct a facility adjacent to the existing Center, and to hire physicians to practice there. This would help form the backbone of a MediCal delivery system for Riverside County. Subsequent to the clinic, a healthy aging/wellness educational and training center may be developed.

A number of other activities will also be pursued. These include:

- Distinguished Lecture Series – In addition to the five seminar series that currently are scheduled at the Palm Desert Graduate Center, UCR will offer a special
distinguished lecture series that will take place at the Center from October or November through May. One lecture per month will be delivered by a UCR faculty member, on contemporary topics ranging from public policy to the arts to the sciences. The lectures will be well advertised and open to the public at low- or preferably no-cost.

- Certificate Programs – Through University Extension, certificate programs will be offered in a variety of areas. Examples include programs aimed at small business owners, GIS training, and solar energy. To determine areas of potential interest, UCR will consult with the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership, local government, and others. If necessary, a needs assessment will be conducted.

- Research – The Palm Desert Center is located in a living laboratory for environmental research. Already UCR faculty members are utilizing the Center for work with the regional Habitat Conservation Plan on endangered species issues, including monitoring, sensing, and modeling. These activities will consider. In addition, the region has tremendous potential for UCR research related to public policy and healthcare. These interests and others will be explored in areas that do not duplicate existing programs at College of the Desert or Cal State-San Bernardino. Of particular importance will be to engage the workforce development organizations in the Coachella Valley in discussions about UCR Extension certificates in entrepreneurial areas such as small business, GIS, solar, or health care management.

Q6. What can UC in general and UCR in particular do to help drag California into prosperity?

A6. UCR is already doing a tremendous amount to stimulate the economy of California and the region. A recently released economic impact report (see http://newsroom.ucr.edu/2740) shows that a total impact of $1.4 billion is created by direct spending by the university as well as direct, indirect, and induced impacts of spending by the campus’ students, visitors, and retirees.

Overall, the direct and induced impacts of UCR spending support 16,335 jobs annually – most of them located within Inland Southern California. We also stimulate the economy by producing a highly educated workforce. The campus also issued 3,822 degrees in June 2011, and taught 23,70 individuals in non-degree continuing education programs.

We also have an economic impact in terms of technology transfer, in brings UCR research into the marketplace. The study showed we had 54 inventions last year, for a cumulative total of 288 inventions. We also have 88 active patents, 65 patent applications, 32 active license agreements, and 170 active plant license

Q7. What is the plan to bring UCR to a higher ranking as a “top” university?

A7. As shown in the chart below, UCR actually fares fairly well among other US News criteria. Nevertheless, we aspire to elevate our rankings even higher, with the goal of
attaining the profile of a member institution of the Association of American Universities. This goal and our strategies for achieving it were clearly articulated in our strategic plan, *UCR 2020*. It is available at the following website: [http://strategicplan.ucr.edu/ucr2020.html](http://strategicplan.ucr.edu/ucr2020.html)

To achieve this stature, we will need to meet specific AAU criteria, which include federal research expenditures, faculty citations, faculty awards and honors, program rankings by the National Research Council, and membership in the National Academies. Our strategic plan implementation advisory committee, chaired by Provost Rabenstein, is working to implement many of the recommendations in the plan that will help us to achieve our aspirations.

U.S. News & World Report (2011-12) ranked UCR highly in several categories:

- 6th in the nation in diversity.
- 25th on "Great Values, Great Prices" list.
- 44th among national public universities.
- 55th among Best Undergraduate Business Programs.
- 82nd among Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs.
- 97th overall among 262 national universities, public or private.

**Q8. Can UCR look into the possibility of getting materials made in America when they meet the specifications needed (within reasonable financial cost of course given the budget situation.)?**

**A8.** UCR’s Construction and Purchasing Policies are derived from State laws, UC Policies and UC Systemwide agreements. A great many of our current specifications do specify Made in America products, and UCR seeks bids from and has outreach efforts for local firms to supply products and services.

**Q9. I learned from my son that the campus decided to close the Department of Media and Cultural Studies because the Department is not making a profit. Is this true? The UC system is for educating our next generation. Tuition has been increased unreasonably and the parents keep fighting to send the kids to college. Education has to be balanced; we cannot just say we need engineers, medical professionals, etc., and leave behind some of others. It is not fair and wise.**

**A9.** Please be assured that the Department of Media and Cultural Studies (MCS) is not being closed. In fact, MCS is thriving with 426 majors in Fall 2011. The campus agrees that we need not only engineering and medicine but the arts and humanities as well. That is exactly the type of options we are providing here at UCR today and will continue to do so in the future.

**Q10. Please address the fact that faculty will get a 3% increase (if their last action was positive) and all staff (regardless of performance) will not. Some people with good performance evaluations got less than the 3%. Please address the fact that colleges were able to pick and choose who they would give the increase to without any set guidelines of equity.**
A10. Each organizational unit was permitted to develop a merit distribution methodology based on performance recognition, among other factors. The examples that were provided in the campus Merit Program Guidelines demonstrate that different approaches could be taken to distribute awards in an equitable manner, but the performance rating alone need not be the sole factor. Additionally, the merit “budget control” figure (i.e., 3%) simply represents the funding limit for the program. Merit program funding is based on 3.0 percent of the eligible base payroll which organizational units utilize to grant merit increases to merit-eligible staff. Historically, the methodology used to grant salary increases for faculty and academic appointments has not been identical to that used for staff salary increases, as a result, differences between the two programs (academic versus staff) should not be construed as an inequity.

Q11. What is the graduation rate of the campus?

A11. The graduation rates for all groups and previous years are available at http://sara.ucr.edu. For the class of 2004, the six-year graduation rate was 67.4%.

Q12. Is the Administration part of the Staff UCR scorecard? If not, how have those numbers changed?

A12. Executive and management staff were not included in the staff totals. There were 247 FTE in these categories, from all funding sources, in FY08 and 233 FTE in FY10. We do not yet have data for FY11.

Q13. What is the new “Tech Course Fee?”

A13. The “Tech Course Fee” is a new campus-wide fee that will be used to expand and enhance UCR’s instructional and classrooms related technologies. For example, this fee might be used to expand the wireless network, improve student access to licensed instructional software (e.g. SPSS, SAS, etc.), and increase the amount of online content within iLearn (for example, “course capture” and lecture recording). You’ll find more information on the fee at http://cnc.ucr.edu/techfee/. UCR is now putting together the oversight body that will guide the utilization of these resources in the years ahead. The group will include students, faculty, as well as technologists and key administrators.

Q14. Assuming eventual recovery or upswing in the State’s and by extension UCR’s financial situation, will student contributions be the first to experience relief or are those higher costs now “in stone”?

A14. When the state financial situation improves, the University has asked that it address state contributions to the UC retirement system. In addition, UC has asked that the state provide funding for the currently unfunded enrollment – about 14,000 students systemwide – to respond to the increasing demand for a UC education. The Regents approved student fee increases on an ongoing basis in response to the state’s disinvestment in higher education. Given the continued state climate and the many other items which the state has not funded in the UC budget, it seems unlikely that the Regents will reduce student tuition/fees in the foreseeable future.