

CUCSA Campus Update
UCOP
March 3, 2009

The past three months have been characterized by an extraordinary level of energy and engagement on the part of UCOPA members due to the swiftly changing job landscape brought about by the restructuring at the Office of the President, as well as an unprecedented level of access to senior management at OP to advance staff initiatives.

Among our accomplishments and challenges:

Staff Morale: UCOPA sponsored and co-sponsored with the administration a series of presentations for staff, including:

- Keeping it Real: Taking Care of Yourself During Times of Turmoil at Work (facilitated by our EAP counselor and an organizational change consultant)
- Personal Safety: How to Avoid Being the Victim of Crime (brought about by a series of incidents affecting UCOP employees in and around the buildings where they work)

Facilitating Staff Communication with the President: UCOPA worked closely with the UC Communications Team to plan and staff two Town Hall meetings for all staff with President Yudof. In addition to helping collect questions for the Q&A segment in advance of the event, UCOPA members also assisted with publicity and ran microphones at the event.

Resources: HR has approved UCOPA's request for a basic budget, which had been set aside for our use but not systematically utilized during previous administrations. The most significant challenge has been members' time commitments with their regular positions, which continue to be stretched thinner and thinner as a result of restructuring.

Website: As a result of this challenge, the UCOPA website remains under construction pending a redesign, the planning for which has now finally begun. We are also looking at ordering a banner as well as some reasonably priced tchotchkes to support branding and employee awareness of what UCOPA is and what we do.

Staffing: Restructuring has not only driven down the total number of employees at the Office of the President from 1,700 to 1,400, it has also created two new vacancies on our board: it is with great regret that we say farewell to Kathy Mendonca and Debbie Richerson, both of whom have taken positions at UC Berkeley. Spring elections are just around the corner, and the nominations process will begin in April.