

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
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Dear Colleagues,

As my term as Academic Senate chair winds down, I wanted to express my gratitude for this opportunity to serve as chair and vice-chair over the last two years. It has been a learning experience to work directly with our campus's administrative leadership and with a group of dedicated colleagues on Divisional Council and the Senate office. I am confident that our efforts have contributed to making UC Merced a more diverse and research-oriented institution.

Among the highlights over the past academic year, I would like to mention only a few of them. First of all, our academic leadership, with the Senate's support, was successful in securing a favorable new Memorandum of Understanding with the UC Office of the President. Over the past months, Division Council has also engaged in numerous discussions on campus and systemwide issues, including the Course Buyout Policy, the implementation of UC Path and Composite Benefit Rates, MAPP, APM and Bylaw 55 revisions, Medical Education, diversity hires and the hiring of a diversity official, the open access policy, the campus budget, and the climate survey report.

Although there was no official FTE request this last academic year due to our downsizing of enrollment and lack of space, be assured that this is not a new model but a one-year exception. Several of you attended the strategic focusing town hall meetings last year and had the opportunity to provide valuable input for the process. The Senate and the Joint Administration-Senate Strategic Academic Focusing Working Group have been working hard to conduct this exercise in a collaborative way and in the spirit of shared governance. I would like to thank all our UC Merced colleagues who dedicated their valuable time to writing over forty excellent proposals. I hope that you will be satisfied with the results of the academic strategic focusing this upcoming year.

I am also grateful that the administrative leadership has continued to work collaboratively with the Senate and am confident that shared governance will continue to be observed at UC Merced. I am particularly excited about these new developments in strategic academic focusing, which should lead our campus in the right direction, increasing our graduate student population and our reputation as a research institution, and rebalancing the ratio of tenured

and tenure-track faculty to lecturers. The delivery of the 2020 Plan should also help us find solutions to our well-known space limitations.

In addition, over the last academic year, the Senate has also participated in several active searches, including those for AVC for Finance, AVC for Real Estate Development, Vice Provost for Faculty, and University Librarian. I want to thank those of you who participated in these searches, as well as those who participated in Senate standing and ad hoc committees, particularly their chairs: Jian-Qiao Sun (Senate Vice-Chair), Raymond Gibbs (Committee on Academic Personnel Chair), Anne Kelley (Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation Chair), Patti LiWang (Committee on Committees Chair), Valerie Leppert (Graduate Council Chair), Ruth Mostern (Committee on Research Chair), Jay Sharping (Undergraduate Council Chair), Rick Dale (Committee on Rules and Elections Chair), Rudy Ortiz (Committee on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom Chair), and Robin DeLugan and Paul Maglio (At-Large Members). And, of course, I want to express my gratitude to our outstanding Senate staff team: Dejeuné Shelton, Fatima Paul, Simrin Takhar, and Mayra Chavez. It was a true pleasure to work with such a pleasant and hard-working group of colleagues.

Finally, I am delighted to tell you that beginning August 20, our colleague Jian-Qiao Sun will be the new chair of the Academic Senate. I enjoyed working with him and I am sure that he will be an outstanding advocate for UC Merced faculty's interests and for shared governance. Again, I would like to thank all of you for this opportunity to serve the Senate.

Hopefully, all of you had time to rest last summer and will begin the academic year with renewed energy!

Fiat Lux,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ignacio López-Calvo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Ignacio López-Calvo, Chair  
Division Council

CC: Division Council  
Senate Office