

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
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September 1, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2010-2011 academic year, which I expect will be interesting and productive.

As I stated recently at the Faculty-Staff Convocation, due to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Merced Administration and the UC Office of the President, campus planning can now take place in a three-year time frame. This is an accomplishment in itself, and represents a good level of cooperation between the Merced Administration and the UCOP. Although this financial support is greatly appreciated, it allows us to add only 50 faculty and 90 staff while adding 1800 students over three years.

We need to do more. I pose the question of what else can we do, beyond the MOU, to hire additional faculty and staff, who will have a direct impact on improving the quality of UC Merced. Other universities have faced this same issue and have made plans to address it. Although seeking additional resources is ultimately the responsibility of the Administration, the Senate will gladly work with the Administration on developing a plan for this purpose.

In the upcoming year, several important issues will come up in the UC system. One is that the UC Retirement Plan will have its terms changed, in an effort to make it financially sustainable. Undoubtedly, employee contributions will increase and the value of benefits will decrease. You can find detailed information about current proposals here (and I particularly recommend the Dissenting Opinion, written by Senate members).

<http://universityofcalifornia.edu/sites/ucrfuture/task-force-report/>

As a Merced faculty member, you have three representatives who will address this issue on systemwide committees: Sean Malloy, UC Faculty Welfare Committee; Shawn Kantor, UC Planning and Budget; and myself, Academic Council. Please feel free to contact us.

Another UC-wide issue is that we may see is “rebenching,” or revisions to the formulas for funding individual campuses from State General Funds. This is an opportunity for UC Merced, and it will be important that the Merced Senate and Administration work together and are at the table when this issue is discussed.

At UC Merced, I would like to see this as a year when shared governance is strengthened, not only at the campus level, but also at the school level, and with two new deans, we have a great opportunity for doing so.

I would like to thank my predecessor, Martha Conklin, for two years of service as chair of the Merced Division, and for many contributions to shared governance.

Finally, I would like to note that Divisional Council ultimately works for all Senate faculty. The Divisional Council is the executive body of the Merced Senate, including chairs of most Senate committees, and it represents Merced faculty to the Administration and the UC system. As a reminder, here are the names of Divisional Council members. Please feel free to contact me or any Divisional Council member to raise issues regarding shared governance, the role of the Senate, or simply what we can do to build and improve UC Merced.

Sincerely,



Evan Heit  
Chair, Merced Division of the Academic Senate

#### Divisional Council Members 2010-2011

Evan Heit, Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts  
Anne M. Kelley, Vice Chair, School of Natural Sciences  
Susan Amussen, UGC Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts  
Tom Harmon, CAP Vice Chair, School of Engineering  
Shawn Kantor, CAPRA Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts  
Chris Kello, GRC Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts  
Ignacio Lopez-Calvo, At-Large, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts  
David Noelle, At-Large, School of Engineering/School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts  
Nella Van Dyke, Secretary, Rules/Parliamentarian, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts  
Jack Vevea, CoC Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts