

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
SUSAN AMUSSEN, CHAIR
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November 22, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

Is it really Thanksgiving? I have, it appears, failed at the monthly chair's letter, so I'll make this one do double duty, for November and December.

I suspect that many of you have been following events at Occupy Wall Street, and on the Berkeley and Davis campuses, with the same attention I have. Even at OWS, which was not focused specifically on education, the question of education and its costs have been issues of great concern. At our sister campuses, students have focused in particular on issues of funding and inequality; the horrific sight of police at Berkeley and Davis attacking peaceful student protesters has rightly gained much attention. As I told you yesterday, the systemwide Academic Senate has issued a statement on the [subject](#). The "Occupy" movement has a number of significant consequences for our campus.

1. The Regents cancelled the meeting that had originally been scheduled for last week, as a result of intelligence that some protesters planned to use the occasion for violent, rather than peaceful protest. The Regent's meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, November 28, and it will be held at 4 sites around the state. One of those sites is UC Merced. You will be hearing from the Chancellor soon about that meeting, but the Agenda is available [here](#). The period of open comment is from 9-10:30, but all sessions from c. 9 AM to c. 2 PM will be open to the public. The meeting will be in KL 232, and we hope to have a satellite room so that as many people as possible may observe the public portion of the meeting.
2. The Chancellor has asked students and the Senate to join her in sponsoring a teach-in focused on the Occupy issues on the afternoon of December 7. Several of you will be hearing from Provost Keith Alley in the next few days as we put together a list of speakers. We are an educational institution, and it is appropriate for us to take time to focus on contexts that help us understand major political issues. If you would be interested in participating, feel free to contact either me (samussen@ucmerced.edu) or Provost Alley (kalley@ucmerced.edu).

I hope many of you will both come watch parts of the Regent's meeting on November 28, and both share your expertise, and listen to your colleagues, on December 7.

The other major event I would like to draw your attention to is the meeting of the Division on December 1. We will have Robert Anderson, the systemwide Senate chair, and Robert Powell, the vice-chair, as our guests for the day. Chancellor Leland will also address the meeting. We hope to have a constructive discussion about some of the major issues which the campus faces – space and budget. We will also talk briefly about the Divisional Council's primary focus for the year, which is working with the Chancellor and EVC to ensure that various levels of planning are better integrated. The meeting of the Division is a time when you can ask the chairs of Senate Committees, the chair of the division, as well as our guests, questions about issues that concern you on the campus or in the system. We hope you will join us!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Amussen".

Susan Amussen
Chair