

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
SUSAN AMUSSEN, CHAIR  
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March 19, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

I know from hurried (and harried) conversations with many of you that many of us have been busily engaged in recruiting faculty the last few weeks. I hope everyone has found outstanding future colleagues! As we head towards Spring Break, I thought I would offer an update to you on Senate activities.

First, spring is when we have elections for members of the Committee on Committees, and for our at-large members of the Divisional Council, who also serve as our representatives to the Assembly. Both of these are important positions: the Committee on Committees identifies faculty who serve on all campus committees, including the Chair and Vice-Chair of the faculty; they also identify representatives to system-wide committees. As the only fully elected group on the campus, it is important to have respected members of the faculty engaged in this work. At-large members of the Divisional Council represent the faculty as a whole, not just the committees of the Division. The Divisional Council represents the faculty between meetings of the Division, and meets regularly with the Chancellor, the Provost/EVC, and other administrators. **Nominations have been extended, and will now close on Friday, March 23.** I urge you all to identify individuals who will serve the campus well in building committees which broadly represent the campus.

Spring is also when we have campus visits for Program Reviews. There are two Undergraduate Program Reviews this year, Mechanical Engineering on March 19-20, and Economics, on April 10-11. The schedule for these is posted on the [Senate website](#). In addition to these reviews, the Office of Research is undergoing a review, and has invited faculty to meet with the review team on April 10, from 2:30-3:30 in KL 232. This provides an opportunity for faculty to comment on how well this office has served their needs.

Finally, on Thursday, April 12 we will have the Spring meeting of the Division at 2:00 p.m. We will have two items on the agenda. First, we will discuss the Memorial to the Regents on which we will be voting (more on that **after** break); and second, we will discuss strategies for strengthening shared governance in the Schools. UC Senate Chair Bob Anderson will be with us, and we look forward to his sharing his wisdom on these subjects.

Finally, in late April, the final candidates for a new Provost/EVC will be on campus for interviews; each school will have the opportunity to meet with the candidates. Whoever we bring in this position will have a significant impact on all our lives, as s/he serves as the academic leader of the campus. So do take time to meet with the candidates! As always, feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Amussen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Susan Amussen  
Chair