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OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE SUSAN AMUSSEN, CHAIR senatechair@ucmerced.edu UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED 5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD MERCED, CA 95343 (209) 228-7954; fax (209) 228-7955

October 28, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to update you on the activities of the Senate so far this semester.

First, we have worked with various committees of the Senate to ensure that faculty with the appropriate expertise have a chance to review the 2020 project designs. This is a very focused process, that takes place in a very short time, but it will ensure that the buildings are functional for faculty and students.

Second, CAPRA has undertaken a major project to model the curriculum in the year we have 9000 undergraduates and 1000 graduate students. While this will (inevitably) be a very rough approximation, it will provide the committee with guidance when we make recommendations to the Provost about faculty hiring. Our hope is that this will help provide some sense of predictability to support faculty planning.

Third, many faculty are concerned with the future process for hiring, and the relationship between cluster hires, SAFIs and foundation hires. CAPRA is working on a number of potential models for the process. They will be presented to the faculty for initial discussion at the fall meeting of the division; we will also set up a discussion space on CatCourses to ensure that all faculty can comment. Our goal is to have a recommendation to the Provost by the end of the fall semester, or the very beginning of the Spring semester.

Finally, the Senate also continues the normal work of reviews and recommendations. Vice Chair Kurt Schnier and I have met with the School Executive Committees to see how we can support their role in shared governance. We also continue to emphasize the institutional benefits of faculty consultation regarding topics that impact academic and institutional planning, and we respond when such consultation is omitted. As always, I welcome your thoughts, concerns, and questions on these topics.

The meeting of the Division, which will be followed by a reception, will take place on November 28 at 3 PM in KL 232. You will receive a formal notice in a few weeks, but we hope to see you there.

Fiat Lux,

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Susan Amussen, Chair Merced Division of the Academic Senate