

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
SUSAN AMUSSEN, CHAIR  
[senatechair@ucmerced.edu](mailto:senatechair@ucmerced.edu)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED  
5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD  
MERCED, CA 95343  
(209) 228-7954; fax (209) 228-7955

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Dear Colleagues,

It's hard to believe we've reached the end of the third week of classes, so this is a belated welcome, on behalf of the Academic Senate, to the new academic year! We will be trying to update you on a semi-regular basis as to what the Senate is doing. Right now, I wanted to outline the Senate's main priorities for the year.

1. **2020 buildings and space:** As the building plans come to us, I want to make sure that the faculty are able to identify potential problems in the buildings. Many of these were discussed at length by the faculty who served last year on the Technical Expert Panels, but we will have an opportunity (with a very short turn-around) to review the plans as they are submitted. The faculty needs to be sure that the buildings meet the needs they are designed to address.
2. **2020 Planning:** How are we going to meet the instructional needs of 9000 undergraduates and 1000 graduate students in 2020? What combination of ladder faculty, SOEs, and Unit 18 lecturers will we need? CAPRA has begun analysis of current enrollment data; at the same time, the School Executive Committees and Deans will try to think at a more granular level. Thinking this way will allow us to have some sense of what we'll need at the end point.
3. **Budget:** The campus is working towards greater budget clarity and transparency. I expect in the spring that we will co-host a budget town hall with the administration so that everyone has the same information.

There's lots more: through the Diversity and Equity Committee, for instance, we are pioneering the use of Faculty Equity Advisors this year. The General Education Sub-Committee of UGC will soon be circulating the proposed GE program. Graduate Council is reviewing more graduate programs.

More broadly, my goal as Senate Chair is to make sure that the faculty, through the Academic Senate, are involved as appropriate in the many decisions that will shape the University in the years to come. And to make sure that everyone knows what we're doing.

Fiat Lux,

Susan Amussen, Chair  
Merced Division of the Academic Senate