

**DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025**

The Divisional Council (DivCo) held a total of 17 meetings with respect to its duties as outlined in the [Merced Division Bylaw I.IV.3](#). The AY 24-25 DivCo membership is available [here](#).

Over the course of the year, DivCo guests included the following:

- Juan Sanchez Muñoz, Chancellor
- Betsy Dumont, EVC/Provost
- Tom Hansford, Vice Provost for Academic Personnel
- Amy Bergerson, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education
- Chou Her, Chief of Police
- Steven Cheung, Academic Council Chair
- Cesar Alvarado-Gil, Campus Counsel
- Jessica Blois, Chair, Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications
- Leonardo Arriola, SSHA Dean
- Brian O’Bruba, Interim Vice Chancellor Student Affairs
- Professor Eric Walle, SSHA
- David Dunham, Executive Director and Payton Williams, Associate Director, UCM Athletics
- Scott Hagg, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management
- Annette Roberts Webb, Dean, Division of Professional and Continuing Education
- Thomas Lee, Interim Director, Environmental Health and Safety
- Joel Spencer, AFAC Vice Chair, and Margo Vener, Director of Medical Education
- Dr. Khan, Consultant
- Professor Roger Bales, SOE
- Physical Operations, Planning and Development Team (Vice Chancellor Okoli, Associate Vice Chancellor Boyd, AVC Lampman, ED Saunders)

Many of the Divisional Council’s agenda items were first delegated to the appropriate Senate committees for preliminary analysis and recommendations. This informed the Council’s subsequent deliberations and actions. A summary of the key issues considered by the Divisional Council over the past year is provided below.

The Divisional Council reviewed, discussed, and took action on the following campus proposals:

Campus Items

Governance and Committee Structure

- Offered comments on the proposed charge for the Faculty Advisory Board
- Endorsed FWF’s proposal to split into two committees: the Committee on Faculty Welfare and the Committee on Academic Freedom
- Endorsed proposed amendments to FWF’s Bylaws
- Endorsed the Chair of the Police Accountability Board (PAB) be a Senate faculty member

- Endorsed proposed revisions to the SSHA Bylaws and the SSHA reorganizational plan

Academic Programs

- Endorsed UGC’s decision to return the following undergraduate program proposals to SSHA for revisions:
 - B.S. Degree and Minor in Accounting
 - B.A. Degree and Minor in Business Administration
 - B.A. Degree and Minor in Liberal Studies
- Endorsed UGC’s approval of the proposed Electrical Engineering Minor
- Voted in favor of renaming “UC Merced University Extension” to the UC Merced Division of Professional and Continuing Educations (PACE)
- Approved four non-degree certificate programs from the Division of Professional and Continuing Education (PACE):
 - Certified Associate in Project Management
 - Professional Certificate in Project Management
 - Professional Certificate in California Government and Policy
 - Non-Degree Certificate in PK-3 Early Childhood Education
- Endorsed the proposal for a Dual Degree Program leading to a BS from UC Merced and an MD from UCSF
- Reviewed and transmitted to the VPDGE the proposal to establish a Life and Environmental Sciences Graduate Program

Policy Revisions and Feedback

- Endorsed EDI’s proposal to replace the Faculty Equity Advisors (FEA) program with the Strength Through Equity and Diversity Program (STEAD)
- Endorsed CoR’s proposed revisions to the Core Facilities policy
- Endorsed UGC’s proposed revisions to the campus policy on Minors
- Endorsed proposed amendments to UCM Senate Regulation II.3.A (Academic Probation) to align with systemwide Senate Regulations 900 and 902.
- Endorsed GC’s proposed revisions to:
 - The policy on Graduate Students Teaching Graduate Students
 - The policy for Establishing Hybrid Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Programs
- Transmitted comments to the administration on:
 - Interim Policy on Consensual Relationships
 - Proposed Policy on Assurance of Safety Standards in Academic Settings, with request for revisions
 - Proposed Interim Policy on Withdrawal of Consent to Remain on University Property
 - Proposed UC Merced Interim Policy on Expressive Activities and Assembly

Additional Actions

- Transmitted comments to the VPAP on revisions to MAPP 2013, 2014, 2053, and 2054
- Transmitted to the School of Engineering comments on the proposed name change from the Department of Mechanical Engineering to Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

- Endorsed a proposal for the Christine Nemeč Long Endowed Chair in Agricultural Technology
- Engaged in deliberations on the UCSF Memorials, convened a faculty town hall for discussion, and conducted a formal faculty vote on the proposed Memorials (Memorials did not pass).
- Conducted a faculty vote on the UCB Resolution to Protect Academic and Political Freedom (Resolution was distributed to 379 faculty members. 126 endorsed it; 9 did not endorse and 8 abstained).

Systemwide Items

Transmitted to the Academic Council the Senate's comments on multiple systemwide proposals, including:

- Proposed revisions to Program Attachments #3-7 of the Policy on Vaccination Programs
- Proposed revisions to Senate Regulation 479 (Cal-GETC)
- Proposed Senate Regulation 627 (Posthumous Awarding of Degrees)
- Presidential Policy on the Use of Animals in Research, Teaching, and Testing
- Presidential Policy on Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential
- Proposed revisions to APM 675 (Veterinary Medicine Salary Administration)
- Proposed revisions to APM 036 (General University Policy Regarding Academic Appointees/Employment)
- Proposed revisions to APM 500 (Recruitment, General)
- Proposed revisions to APM 360 (Appointment and Promotion, Librarian Series)
- Proposed revisions to APM 230 (Visiting Appointments)
- Proposed amendments to Senate Bylaw 170 and rescission of Bylaw 192
- Academic Calendar Work Group Draft Report
- Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-63: Risk Transfer and Insurance Requirements
- Presidential Policy on High-Containment Research