



**FALL MEETING OF THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023  
3:00 – 4:30 PM  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ROOM 306**

**I. Chair's Report and Announcements – *Division Chair Patti LiWang***

Chair LiWang welcomed Senate Division members and thanked them for attending today's meeting. She then announced the new chair and vice chair of the Senate effective spring 2024, as well as the new chairs of CAPRA and UGC. Chair LiWang also thanked the Senate staff for their work.

Chair LiWang informed attendees that the major topics of discussion this semester with the administration are faculty morale, financial management and reporting, and the future of graduate education. In addition to opining on various campus review items, the Senate has also provided input on systemwide issues related to faculty salaries, Teaching Professors, and health insurance. Chair LiWang added that the final report from the systemwide work group on the future of graduate education will be issued in the spring.

Another systemwide issue is online education. Online education is important for students but faculty also want to ensure that the online course are UC quality.

**II. CONSENT CALENDAR<sup>1</sup>**

- A. Approval of the Agenda
- B. Approval of the May 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes
- C. Annual Committee Reports AY 22-23
  - Divisional Council
  - Admissions and Financial Aid Committee
  - Committee on Academic Personnel
  - Reserve Committee on Academic Personnel
  - Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda items deemed non-controversial by the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Division, in consultation with the Divisional Council, may be placed on a Consent Calendar under Special Orders. Should the meeting not attain a quorum, the Consent Calendar would be taken as approved. (Quorum = Fifty (50) voting members of the Division are required for a quorum). At the request of any Divisional member, any Consent Calendar item is extracted for consideration under "New Business" later in the agenda. Christopher Viney, Secretary/Parliamentarian.

- Committee on Research
- Committee on Rules and Elections
- Committee for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom
- Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications
- Graduate Council
- Undergraduate Council

**Action:** The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

### **III. Campus Updates – *Chancellor Muñoz and Interim EVC/Provost Zatz***

- Chancellor Muñoz acknowledged that Senate service may sometimes go unnoticed, but it is appreciated. He and others in leadership recently met with community members who were here when the campus first broke ground and told the Chancellor that the campus exceeded their expectations.
- Fall commencement of undergraduate and graduate students will be held this weekend. Former UC Merced EVC/Provost Keith Alley is the keynote speaker for the graduate ceremony and Ted Mitchell, former United States Undersecretary of Education under President Barack Obama is the keynote speaker for the undergraduate ceremony.
- UC Merced is moving through the next iteration of partnerships for medical education and the momentum is encouraging.
- UC Merced is discussing the possibility of creating a faculty lounge as well as an on-campus coffee house and pub.
- The Chancellor is meeting with Senate leadership, Divisional Council, department chairs, Senate committees including CAPRA, Staff Assembly, and the ASUCM and GSA.
- The new campus Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer was recently announced. Next week, the new Campus Counsel will be announced. Campus leadership is in the final stages for determining the next EVC/Provost.
- The Chancellor and Interim EVC/Provost Zatz expressed their thanks and appreciation for faculty for their contributions to degree program development. They shared a slide with attendees that listed the undergraduate programs that were approved in AY 22-23. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz stated that several more program proposals will be submitted. She also thanked the Senate-Administrative committees for their work.

### **IV. QUESTION AND ANSWER WITH SENATE AND ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP**

A faculty member stated that when the medical education program proposal was presented to the SSHA Executive Committee, faculty were told that only students in certain majors could participate. SNS Dean Dumont responded that the reason for this small set of majors is that the campus wanted to ensure we could meet all the UCSF requirements and ensure that the students finish in four years. However, the campus does have pre-health advising so if students are interested, they can take advantage of those resources.

The faculty member pointed out that there are majors that focus on communications and cultural competence and those are important qualities in doctors. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz agreed and stated that those two elements are part of the medical education program. The Chancellor added that the campus has the opportunity to reshape the ethos and nature of medical education training. CRE Chair

and Secretary/Parliamentarian Viney suggested creating a minor in communications so that students could still finish in four years. SNS Dean Dumont replied that she will look into that. There is a line item in the state budget that pays for the medical education instruction and funding was provided for the medical education building. The medical education program and building are therefore not taking resources away from other areas on campus and the program is attracting interest in UC Merced's applicant pool. SNS Dean Dumont has arranged for the cohort of 15 students and others to be in a living learning community, and she is working on pathways for an additional five dozen students.

## **V. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS REPORTS**

The standing committee reports were hyperlinked on today's agenda.

Fall 2023 Leadership:

- Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, Chair Charlie Eaton
- Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation, Chair Kevin Mitchell
- Committee on Academic Personnel, Chair Sean Malloy
- Reserve Committee on Academic Personnel, Chair Anne Kelley
- Committee on Committees, Chair Sarah Depaoli
- Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Chair Marcos Garcia-Ojeda
- Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom, Chair Jayson Beaster-Jones
- Committee on Research, Chair Tao Ye
- Committee on Rules and Elections, Chair Christopher Viney
- Graduate Council, Chair Michael Scheibner
- Library and Scholarly Communication Committee, Chair Christopher Ojeda
- Privilege and Tenure, Chair Susan Amussen
- Undergraduate Council, Chair Heather Bortfeld

## **VI. UPDATE ON TEMPORARY ACADEMIC STAFFING WORK GROUP**

*Kevin Mitchell, CAPRA Chair*

CAPRA Chair Mitchell informed Division members that the Temporary Academic Staffing (TAS) work group is divided into two committees: one committee will make recommendations on the size of the TAS budget as a fraction of the campus budget and the other committee will make recommendations on how the TAS budget should be distributed among the Schools. The Senate has heard feedback from faculty on the TAS budget which has been impacted by changes in graduate student funding. CoC has recently approved the work group's membership structure. The work group hopes to have preliminary recommendations in the spring which might impact the allocations for next fall. CAPRA Chair Mitchell acknowledged that one of the issues the work group is considering is changing the name of the TAS budget due to the confusion caused by the word "temporary".

## **VII. UPDATE ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING JOINT TASK FORCE**

*Shilpa Khatri, Task Force Co-Chair*

Co-Chair Khatri presented slides to Division attendees on the task force.

The joint Task Force of the Senate and Administration is charged with improving financial management and reporting associated with research support.

Specifically:

- Develop a plan with actionable short-term and long-term goals with benchmarks by which progress will be measured.
- Convene working groups with subject matter experts to study specific areas of need and develop an initial plan that proposes specific solutions with the associated benchmarks that help assess success.
- Develop recommendations for the Chancellor and the EVC/Provost on investments needed to implement the plan.
- Monitor progress in the implementation of the plan and update the plan accordingly.
- Study the transition to a long-term governance structure that promotes collaborative decision making.
- Develop and disseminate effective communications regarding Task Force activities.

To Date:

- The task force has met twice as a full group due to challenges with scheduling - planning to meet weekly moving forward
- Challenges with communication which they are addressing
- Administration will focus on identifying appropriate staff to lead working groups
- Faculty will focus on determining appropriate metrics

Next Steps:

- Forming working groups to actually address tasks and map processes
- What does completion of a task mean in terms of the metrics?
- Determining appropriate timeline for completion of each task
- Any new tools/software will be vetted and tested before full campus roll out
- Developing an effective way to communicate with faculty and staff about issues/problems

## **VIII. CRE LEGISLATIVE RULING<sup>2</sup>**

### **INTERPRETATION OF SENATE BYLAW II.III.2.A**

*Christopher Viney, CRE Chair & Secretary/Parliamentarian*

In response to a request from the Committee on Committees, CRE issued the ruling described below.

The UCM Bylaw referenced above states that the membership of the Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP) consists of full professors (“[...] Members will be full professors.” The Bylaw does not explicitly state that full Teaching Professors are not eligible to serve on CAP. CRE interprets “full professors” as including “full Teaching Professors”. Without explicit Bylaw language regarding the membership of CAP, it is implicit that full Teaching Professors should be eligible to serve on CAP.

## **IX. UPDATE ON GUIDELINES FOR DEI STATEMENTS IN PROMOTION/TENURE CASES**

*Marcos Garcia-Ojeda, EDI Chair*

EDI Chair Garcia-Ojeda presented a series of slides for Division attendees. Faculty can enhance their promotion/tenure materials by demonstrating their knowledge and application of EDI principles. He directed attendees to an APO-sponsored website regarding UC Merced guidelines for contributions to DEI statements. He pointed out that faculty could benefit from additional resources and suggested that

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<sup>2</sup> Please see Bylaw II.III.8.B.6

EDI, in conjunction with the Division of Equity, Justice, and Inclusive Excellence, could draft guidelines.

A Division attendee pointed out that a requirement for an EDI statement for promotion and tenure could be interpreted as a political test which is not legal. EDI Chair Garcia-Ojeda acknowledged this point and stated that the EDI committee will explore the issue. Another Division attendee suggested that it would be useful to have guidance on how to evaluate the DEI statements. An attendee pointed out that what kind of EDI work faculty should be doing is different from writing an EDI statement. The APM lists the criteria for advancement and promotion in research, teaching, and service, but not EDI work. EDI Chair Garcia-Ojeda replied that the EDI committee will look into this. CAP Chair Malloy thanked the EDI committee for their work and stated that he looks forward to the end product, as guidelines are particularly needed for those evaluating EDI work.

VPAAS Spitzmueller asked EDI Chair Garcia-Ojeda how he knows that the inclusion of DEI statements benefit faculty, specifically those of color. EDI Chair Garcia-Ojeda replied that he will research this question.

#### **X. GENERAL EDUCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (GEEC) AND HONORS PROGRAM**

*Brian Utter, Interim VPDUE*

*Justin Hicks, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education and Interim Chair of the GEEC*

*Holley Moyes, Director, Honors Program*

Director Moyes explained the DUE Executive Committee proposed structure. The proposal would consolidate the General Education Executive Committee (GEEC) and the new University Honors Executive Committee into a new Division of Undergraduate Education Executive Committee (DUEEC). Falling under College One, the DUEEC would provide faculty governance for both the General Education and UC Merced Honors programs. Amendments were made to the GEEC bylaws. Director Moyes stated that she hopes to distribute the amendments for a faculty vote as soon as possible, such as before the winter break. A Division attendee asked when the bylaw amendments were distributed to faculty and pointed out that it is not enough time for faculty to review. Interim VPDUE Utter and Associate Dean Hicks both agreed that faculty need sufficient time for the review and feedback of the proposed bylaw amendments.

#### **XI. Petition of Students**

No petitions were presented.

#### **XII. New Business**

The Chancellor announced a “Gobble N’ Gather” event on Wednesday, December 20 at 9:00 am in the Bellevue parking lot. One turkey per family will be given away while supplies last.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Attest: Patti LiWang, Division Chair