



**SPRING MEETING OF THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC
SENATE**

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024

3:30 – 5:00 PM

RUIZ-ADMIN 306

I. Chair's Report and Announcements – *Division Chair Matt Hibbing*

Division Chair Matt Hibbing made the following announcements and updates:

- Senate leadership and the administration are aware of the situation at UCLA and other institutions and are in the midst of planning. Associate Chancellor & Chief of Staff to the Chancellor Luanna Putney will attend a special meeting of Divisional Council next week.
- SSHA faculty are currently voting on the SSHA restructuring plan. The Senate's role was only to ensure that constituencies were being heard.
- The Financial Management Task Force has been meeting weekly and sometimes more. The three subgroups of the task force dedicated to payroll, reporting, and inflow were tasked with identifying short and long term solutions and have made a lot of progress.
- Senate Chair Hibbing has attended several meetings on the possibility of a fourth school but there is nothing to report at this time.
- Divisional Council will vote next week on the proposal to create a Department of Medical Education in the School of Natural Sciences. Former SNS Dean and current EVC/Provost Dumont and Medical Director Vener have worked with the Senate on revisions to the proposal. The programming will be developed after the department is established.
- There are several pending administrative searches: SSHA dean, VPDUE, SNS dean, and CREATES director.
- Senate Chair Hibbing thanked Senate committees and the Senate staff for their work this year.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of the Agenda
- B. Approval of the December 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Action: Due to a lack of quorum, the Consent Calendar will be distributed to Senate members for approval via email.

III. Campus Updates – *Chancellor Muñoz and EVC/Provost Betsy Dumont*

Chancellor Muñoz made the following announcements:

- He thanked Senate committees, Senate Executive Director Fatima Paul, and the Senate staff for their work.
- Gallo-related discussions are going well.
- He thanked the financial management task force for their work and thanked the faculty for their collaboration.
- He congratulated the faculty who will be receiving Senate awards later in this meeting.
- The campus is actively planning for potential protests during commencement and the Board of Regents meeting which will be held at UC Merced for the first time in the campus's history. The Chancellor and senior leadership have communicated with the Senate and student leadership. He encouraged faculty to attend the commencement ceremonies. He also pointed out that many students in the graduating class did not have a high school commencement ceremony due to the pandemic which makes their UC Merced commencement all the more significant.
- The campus now has a faculty lounge, and the Chancellor is encouraged to see faculty utilize it.
- UC Merced has received the highest percentage of applications in the campus's history. There is a 12% increase in applications. This is partially due to more aggressive marketing. The campus hired overseas recruiters, and international applications have tripled. UC Merced has the highest percentage of first year applications in the UC system. 53% of UC Merced applications are first generation college students. 81% are from California. Graduate applications have increased by 15% to a record 1,200 students. However, transfer numbers are less impressive so the campus needs to work on this. A major challenge this year was the disastrous roll out of the revised FAFSA form which affects 60% of UC Merced's students. Corrections in the system are being made incrementally.
- A clearer picture of the state budget will be possible after the Governor's annual May revise. The Chancellor's office will soon issue a message about a 4.2% salary increase for policy-covered staff and academic appointees at all locations. This is contingent on the state budget allocations.
- As mentioned earlier by Senate Chair Hibbing, the various administrative searches are progressing. The search for the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs will be launched after commencement as will the SNS dean search.
- Capitol updates. The Chancellor emphasized that the lines for medical education are being funded from state dollars, not the campus. The goal is to increase those state dollars so that the campus does not have to use its funds. The groundbreaking will be held on May 14. The Field Education and Research Center should be completed this fall. The new housing is being worked on and being presented to the Regents, but it is contingent upon the state budget allocations. The campus received \$100 million to build COB3 which will house many SSHA units and some of the largest lecture halls on campus.

- UC Merced's effort to join NCAA Division II looks favorable.
- The campus reached the \$100 million mark for the Boldly Forward campaign and the Chancellor is working on the second \$100 million.

EVC/Provost Dumont made the following announcement:

- EVC/Provost Dumont thanked faculty for the warm welcome and their patience while she delves into her new role. She has enjoyed meeting with department chairs, School Executive Committees, and Senate committees. She thanked faculty for their commitment to research, students, and for creating new majors. She also thanked the Financial Management Task Force for their work.

IV. Q&A SESSION

A faculty member asked for details on policing for potential campus protests. Associate Chancellor & Chief of Staff to the Chancellor Putney explained that the campus has been planning for the past two and half months given the fact that the campus is hosting the Board of Regents Meeting. The campus chief of policy has the authority over the use of force. That directive is given to his officers and to those providing additional aid. The campus is prepared with ten extra sworn officers during the Regents meeting and commencement. The campus police is used first and if additional help is needed, the campus will receive that aid first from other UCs, then CSUs. If the emergency protocol needs to be enacted, the campus will receive assistance from the Merced County Sheriff's Office. If still more assistance is needed, it will be provided by other counties. The campus chief of police meets regularly with city and county officials on de-escalation and force. If the campus needs more sworn officers immediately, it could be a four-hour wait given our remote location. Therefore, the campus is working on mitigation strategies while also respecting free speech.

A faculty member asked if UC Merced is taking into account the experiences from other campuses who have successfully handled potentially violent situations. Senate Chair Hibbing replied that the campuses are communicating with each other. UC Riverside negotiated with the individuals leading an encampment at that campus and it was taken down.

V. Divisional Senate Regulations - *CRE Chair, Secretary/Parliamentarian Christopher Viney*

A. Proposed Amendments to Bylaw II.IV.2.A (AFAC Membership)

AFAC proposed the addition of a Graduate Student Association (GSA) representative to contribute to the committee's discussions related to master's program proposals, undergraduate/graduate hybrid degree programs, and financial aid. The proposed amendments also aim to clarify the voting rights of students on AFAC and the role of the Committee on Committees (CoC). Amendments were approved by the Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE) and the Divisional Council (April 29, 2024). The proposed amendments were linked on today's agenda.

Action: Due to a lack of quorum, the Merced Division will be issued an electronic ballot after the meeting.

B. Proposed Amendments to Senate Bylaw II.III.2.A (CAP Membership)

These amendments are proposed in response to a ruling issued by the Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE) regarding the eligibility of full Teaching Professors for service on the Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP). CRE's ruling was linked on today's agenda and is summarized as follows:

"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."

The proposed amendments were linked on today's agenda.

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C. Proposed Amendments to Senate Bylaw II.III.3.A (Reserve Committee on Academic Personnel Membership)

In reviewing the CAP Bylaws, CRE noted that Senate Bylaw II.III.3.A (RCAP) warranted revisions to a) eliminate any potential ambiguities regarding the RCAP membership and b) reflect CRE's ruling regarding the CAP membership. The proposed amendments were linked on today's agenda.

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D. Proposed Amendments to Senate Regulation I.1.E (P/NP, for Undergraduate Students) & Proposed Amendments to Senate Regulation III.1.A.d (Satisfactory Progress - P/NP)

The proposed amendments aim to align the Senate Regulations with academic policies that promote early exploration of undergraduate majors and facilitate easier academic recovery from challenges in first-semester courses. The proposed amendments were linked on today's agenda.

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E. Proposed Amendments to Senate Regulation II.3.B (Academic Dismissal)

These amendments were proposed by UGC in response to a proposal from former VPDUE Frey to permanently approve the practice of not academically dismissing students after the first semester, and in response to CRE's recommendation to review the corresponding Regulations. Per CRE's suggestion, UGC has approved the temporary practice of not academically dismissing students after their first

semester until the amendments to the Regulation are approved. The proposed amendments were linked on today's agenda.

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VI. Announcement: AY 24-25 Senate Leadership - CoC Chair Sarah Depaoli

CoC Chair Depaoli made the following announcements about AY 24-25 Senate leadership:

- Divisional Council
 - Chair – Kevin Mitchell
 - Vice Chair – Courtenay Monroe
- AFAC
 - Chair – Mike Cleary
 - Vice Chair – Joel Spencer
- CAP
 - Chair – Miriam Barlow
 - Vice Chair – Wei-Chun Chin
- RCAP
 - Chair - Anne Kelley
 - Vice Chair - none required
- CAPRA
 - Chair – Kara McCloskey Fall 2024; Mike Beman Spring 2025
 - Vice Chair – Mike Beman Fall 2024; Venkatt Ayyaswamy Spring 2025
- CoR
 - Chair - Tao Ye
 - Vice Chair – Ramendra Saha
- CRE
 - Chair – Jeff Yoshimi
 - Vice Chair - Naomi Petra
- EDI
 - Chair – Clarissa Nobile
 - Vice Chair – Whitney Pirtle
- FWAF
 - Chair - Jayson Beaster-Jones
 - Vice Chair – Yanbao Ma
- GC
 - Chair - John Abatzoglou
 - Vice Chair – Irene Beattie
- LASC
 - Chair – Jessica Blois
 - Vice Chair – Sholeh Quinn
- P&T
 - Chair – Christopher Viney
 - Vice Chair – Robin DeLugan

- UGC
 - Chair – Jay Sharping
 - Vice Chair – Alejandro Gutierrez

VII. Senate Awards – *Chair Hibbing*

Senate Chair Hibbing announced the winners of the AY 23-24 Senate awards:

- Dr. Fred Spiess Award for Distinguished Service to the Academic Senate
 - **Christopher Viney, SoE**
- Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for Senate Faculty
 - **TIE: Alejandro Gutierrez, SoE and Justin Hicks, SSHA**
- Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for Non-Senate Faculty
 - **Antoinette Stone, SNS**
- Distinguished Graduate Teaching/Mentorship Award
 - **Linda Hirst, SNS**
- Distinguished Early Career Research Award
 - **Wan Du, SoE**
- Distinction in Research Award
 - **Lin Tian, SNS**
- Distinguished Scholarly Public Service Award
 - **Venkatt Ayyaswamy, SoE**
- Excellence in Faculty Mentorship Award
 - **Ajay Gopinathan, SNS**
- Senate Award for Contributions to Diversity
 - **Whitney Pirtle, SSHA**

VIII. Petition of Students

No petitions were presented.

IX. New Business

No new business was raised.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Attest: Matt Hibbing, Division Chair