

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
JIAN-QIAO SUN, 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

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2014-2015 academic year. I would like to extend my appreciation to the returning faculty for your hard work and dedication to the University and say to the new faculty I value your addition to the University and look forward to hearing successful stories of your academic career. As we begin the academic year, I would like to thank my predecessor Senate Chair Ignacio López-Calvo and all the former Senate Chairs for their dedication to the University and shared governance. I would also like to recognize all of the Senate Standing Committee Chairs and committee members for offering their time, expertise, and commitment to the shared responsibility of University governance.

In the coming year I plan to work with the Senate leadership and committees to support campus efforts to strategically plan for the future. Last year the campus began efforts to create a Strategic Academic Plan where faculty were invited to provide feedback and submit proposals expressing their vision for the future. Proposals came from all three Schools and across disciplines. Now we must finish the process of determining “where future investments in academic programs and support infrastructure are best made” and put the Strategic Academic Plan in action.

As we embark on this journey enthusiastically reaching to achieve the goals set in the Strategic Academic Plan, I encourage you to actively engage in Senate committees and other opportunities to lend your knowledge and zest to campus objectives. The Senate is the conduit through which faculty, as per the powers delegated to them by the Board of Regents, share in the operation and management of the University. Through the Senate’s deliberative committee structure, faculty are empowered to determine academic policy, set conditions for admission and the granting of degrees, authorize and supervise courses and curricula, and advise the administration on faculty personnel actions, academic space and resource allocation, and budget.

I encourage you to visit the [Academic Senate website](#) where you can find information on bylaws and regulations, committees, resources, archives and a multitude of additional information. Please also feel free to contact Chairs and members of Standing and School

Executive committees, Vice Chair Ricci or myself ([senatechair@ucmerced.edu](mailto:senatechair@ucmerced.edu)) to express concerns or provide input.

I look forward to a year of creativity and commitment. Collectively, we shall uphold the University of California tripartite mission of teaching, research and scholarly endeavors, and service to the highest standard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jian-Qiao Sun'.

Jian-Qiao Sun, Chair  
Merced Division of the Academic Senate

Cc: Division Council