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OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
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December 1, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing with an update on the Senate's work. First of all, I warmly encourage you to attend the Division Meeting, Thursday December 2, 2 pm-3:30 pm, in KL 232, where there will be a full report on what Divisional Council and the standing committees have been doing on behalf of the Senate. This is a time when committee chairs (including myself) are accountable to all of the Senate faculty, and your attendance as well as feedback will be greatly welcomed.

The Chancellor search is proceeding well so far, and the plan is to hold interviews in early spring. The Merced Senate has three representatives on the committee: Mike Colvin, Martha Conklin, and myself. Feel free to contact any of us with suggested names to be considered, or you can email [chancellorsearch@ucmerced.edu](mailto:chancellorsearch@ucmerced.edu) in confidence.

With regard to Post-Employment Benefits, the systemwide Academic Council has endorsed President Yudof's recommendation of a modified "Plan C" that preserves much of the present retirement system <[http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/reports/ds\\_mgyeoptions.pdf](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/reports/ds_mgyeoptions.pdf)>. One remaining, large, concern is how campuses such as UC Merced will pay for the expected 20% employer contribution that will have a substantial impact on our already stretched budget.

Here at Merced, the Senate will soon complete its review of the four proposed SSHA Bylaw 55 units (personnel groups). I expect that we will send our recommendation to the Administration very soon. Once this process is completed, it should be even easier for the other schools to pursue this possibility.

Divisional Council has been concerned about academic personnel processes. Essentially, what we would like to see are efficient processes based on written rules, so that the time of faculty going up for review, faculty serving on review committees, and school staff, is used effectively. I am appending to this letter a memo that we have written to EVC/Provost Alley. This issue will be discussed at the Division meeting on December 2 and your comments will be welcomed.

More generally, the Senate-Administration Council on Assessment (co-chaired by Anne Kelley) is finalizing a policy for reviewing campus administrative units. Similar to academic program review, this process includes surveying local "customers" as well as bringing in outside expertise. Over the next 7 years, every campus unit from school offices to the Senate office itself will be reviewed.

In addition, Divisional Council has been discussing with the Administration the UC Merced San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education (PRIME). This is a program based at UC Davis. The involvement of UC Merced is yet to be determined. Again, this will be an important issue to discuss at the Division

meeting. I am appending a memo that we have written to the Merced administration, as well as a cogent response.

I am also pleased to announce that the Senate office is now fully staffed, with director Susan Sims and analysts Fatima Paul, Mary Ann Coughlin, and Kymm Carlson. The primary mission of the office to serve the standing committees of the Senate, but it is here to be of service to all Senate faculty, who are welcome to contact the office for consultation at any time.

To conclude, please feel free to contact me or any member of DivCo to raise issues of interest. I look forward to seeing you Thursday December 2, 2 pm-3:30 pm, in KL 232.

Sincerely,



Evan Heit, Chair  
Merced Division of the Academic Senate

Divisional Council Members 2010-2011

Evan Heit, Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Anne M. Kelley, Vice Chair, School of Natural Sciences

Susan Amussen, UGC Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Tom Harmon, CAP Vice Chair, School of Engineering

Shawn Kantor, CAPRA Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Chris Kello, GRC Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Ignacio Lopez-Calvo, At-Large, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

David Noelle, At-Large, School of Engineering/School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Nella Van Dyke, Secretary, Rules/Parliamentarian, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Jack Vevea, CoC Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts