

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
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April 1, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing with an update on the Senate's activities. First, I'd like to thank everyone who helped prepare for or participated in the recent WASC visit. The signs are looking positive for the formal decision on accreditation, to be made in June. The review team commended us extensively, highlighting faculty engagement, our emphasis on building a research university, the role of the Senate, and our system of shared governance, among many other positive points made.

In addition, I would like to report on the February meeting with President Yudof, regarding Merced's budget, which I attended along with Chancellor Kang, EVC/Provost Alley, and Vice Chancellor for Administration Miller. I had a strong sense that the leadership at the UC Office of the President appreciates our accomplishments at Merced, recognizing that we have done so much with a limited budget. As the UC system is facing budget cuts from the State, there is steadfast support for Merced, in terms of our operating and capital budgets. At the meeting, I thanked President Yudof on behalf of the faculty for his support of our campus.

I hope you will take the opportunity to sign up as an advocate for the UC Merced budget. Essentially this is an automated system to send emails to government officials.

<http://www.ucforcalifornia.org/merced/mlm/signup>

To provide more information about the campus budget, the Senate is sponsoring the second annual Campus Budget Forum, April 5, noon to 1:30 pm, in KL 232. EVC/Provost Keith Alley will provide an overview of campus funding sources and expenditures. This will be followed by a question and answer session, to cover additional topics, such as faculty hiring plans, capital budget for new buildings, funding for graduate student recruitment and support, and funding for research centers and ORUs. This was a very successful event last year, and I encourage you to attend this time.

There will also be a general meeting of the Merced Division on Thursday, April 14, 12:30-2:00 pm, in KL 232. Vice Chancellor Mary Miller will provide a campus update and systemwide

Academic Senate Chair Dan Simmons will also provide an update. In addition to committee reports, there will be two discussion topics. Chris Kello, chair of the Graduate and Research Council, will lead a discussion on building UC Merced as a center for graduate education. The second topic will be supporting the success of untenured faculty. A subcommittee of Divisional Council, led by Susan Amussen, has prepared recommendations regarding mentoring for assistant professors as well as teaching relief for faculty about to go up for tenure. Finally, at this meeting, the annual Senate Awards will be announced, as well as the slate for next year's Senate Chair and Vice-Chair.

To conclude, I would like to note again that Divisional Council has the aim to work for all Senate faculty. Please feel free to contact me or any member of DivCo to raise issues of concern.

Sincerely,



Evan Heit, Chair  
Merced Division of the Academic Senate  
<http://senate.ucmerced.edu/>

#### 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

Thomas Hansford, CoC 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