



OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
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Dear Colleagues,

In the last two years, I served as chair and vice-chair of Merced Division of the Academic Senate. Working with the administrative leadership and a group of dedicated colleagues on the Divisional Council and Senate office has been a very rewarding experience. We have come together to work towards the common goal of building the newest campus of the University of California with its high academic standard.

As I leave the position of chair of the Academic Senate, I would like to call attention of the faculty to the importance of the Academic Senate and the shared governance of the University of California. Much to the credit and effort of Chancellor James K. Moffitt of Berkeley, [Standing Order of the Regents 105.2](#) was passed in June, 1920, and gave both direct and indirect powers of shared governance to the Academic Senate. Standing Order 105.2 delegates to the Academic Senate, subject to the approval of the Board, the authority to

- Determine the conditions for admission.
- Determine the conditions for certificates and degrees, other than honorary degrees. The Senate also is charged to recommend to the President candidates for degrees in all courses and is to be consulted, through committees as determined by the President, on the award of all honorary degrees.
- Authorize and supervise all courses and curricula (excepting Hastings College of the Law, the San Francisco Art Institute, the courses offered by professional schools with graduate work only, and non-degree courses of University Extension).
- Determine the membership of faculties (excepting Hastings College of the Law and the San Francisco Art Institute).
- Select committees to advise the Chancellors on the campus budgets, and the President on the University budget.
- Advise the President and the Chancellors on matters concerning the administration of the libraries.
- Select a committee to approve publication of manuscripts by the University of California Press.

- Lay before the Board, but only through the President, any matter pertaining to the conduct and welfare of the University.

These delegations of authority impose on the faculty significant responsibility for the maintenance of the quality of the instructional and research effort of the University of California.

“Certainly, shared governance has added to the complexity of decision-making. Foremost, it has proven an important and evolving tool established by the Regents for management of the University of California – a tool that works best in an atmosphere of respect and understanding of the differing roles of faculty, students, administrators and the Regents.”¹ Some historians believe that the shared governance of the University of California is one of the most important mechanisms that have made the University of California the best public university in the world.

The Academic Senate and the Administration come together and work for the shared goal of creating the best UC campus. This is the spirit that has guided my work in the Senate.

Every year, the Division Council addresses a large number of issues related to every aspect of the university business. Please take the time to find out what the Division Council has done this academic year by reading the [DivCo Annual Report](#).

I would like to thank the administrative leadership for its continued support to the Academic Senate, for honoring the spirit of shared governance, and for its dedication to the success of UC Merced. I wish much success to the 2020 Project, a very important phase for the future of UC Merced.

The Academic Senate cannot function without the dedication and hard work of our capable professional staff. They are former Executive Director Dejeuné Shelton, Interim Executive Director Fatima Paul, Principal Analyst Simrin Takhar, and former Analyst Mayra Chavez.

The senate standing and ad hoc committees do most of the work of the Academic Senate in exercising the shared governance of the University. It has been truly my honor to work with a group of dedicated colleagues: Cristián Ricci (Vice-Chair, Division Council), Theofanis “Fanis” Tsoulouhas (Member, Committee on Academic Personnel), Anne M. Kelley (Chair, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation), Patricia LiWang (Chair, Committee on Committees Chair), Kathleen Hull (Chair, Graduate Council), David Noelle (Chair, Committee on Research), Jack L. Vevea (Chair, Undergraduate Council), Peter Vanderschraaf (Chair, Committee on Rules and

¹ John Aubrey Douglass (March, 1998) “Shared Governance at the University Of California: An Historical Review,” Research and Occasional Paper Series: CSHE.1.98, University of California, Berkeley, <http://ishi.lib.berkeley.edu/cshe/>

Elections), Rudy Ortiz (Chair, Committee on Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom), and Robin DeLugan and Thomas Hansford (At-Large Members).

Finally, it is my honor to inform you that our colleague Cristián Ricci will be the chair of the Academic Senate during academic year 2015-2016. I have enjoyed working with him and I am confident that he will be an outstanding advocate for the interest of UC Merced and for the shared governance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JQS' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Jian-Qiao Sun, Chair
Division Council

CC: Division Council
Senate Office