

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
SUSAN AMUSSEN, CHAIR
[samussen@ucmerced.edu](mailto:samusen@ucmerced.edu)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD
MERCED, CA 95343
(209) 228-7954; fax (209) 228-7955

February 8, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

I meant to get this out at the beginning of the semester, but this semester arrived with such a rush that I'm just catching up. I think teaching makes us all forward-looking in various ways – we always see where our students could go – but this time of year, with both faculty and graduate student recruitment well underway, we are particularly focused on the future.

There are many things happening on campus and in the Senate right now. Not only is this prime time for the academic job search, but – as many of you know – the search for a new EVC is underway. The Search Advisory Committee has met a few times, and we expect to bring candidates to campus after spring break. Searches are also underway for a Vice-Chancellor for Development and Alumni Relations, and for an Ombudsperson. Construction on the Recreation Center North and the new dorms is well underway, and they are preparing to begin work on the Student Services Building (across from SSM) and for S&E II. The first meeting rooms – which will double as classrooms initially – in the Student Services Building will open for fall of 2013. While I know we are all excited about the results of the construction, the process is more difficult. Many of us have faced frustration over the impact on campus traffic and parking patterns. The Senate and the Parking Committee (which includes faculty, staff, and students) have been vocal advocates for addressing the parking issues. The Senate too, is busy. Let me give you an overview of recent events and upcoming ones:

1. There is now a Library Committee, a subcommittee of GRC and UGC, which will work to ensure the Library meets the needs of faculty for both research and teaching. Sholeh Quinn is the head of this committee, and if you have comments or concerns, please let her know.
2. You recently received a notice of a meeting of the Assembly of the University of California Senate. While we have designated representatives to the Assembly, everyone is welcome to attend the meeting, which will be held by teleconference. The most significant item on the agenda is a proposed Memorial from the faculty to the Regents. This is the most formal way the Senate communicates with the Regents, and if the Assembly approves, all faculty will have the opportunity to vote. The Memorial asks

the Regents to authorize the faculty to speak **for the University** in support of particular ballot measures that would support funding for higher education in the state. We will, of course, have a forum on this before the vote, to give everyone a chance to think about it.

3. Two undergraduate programs – Economics and Mechanical Engineering are undergoing Program Review this year, and a full schedule for [Graduate Program Review](#) has now been established.
4. We are in the process of scheduling our annual budget update with both the Chancellor and the EVC: this will give you the chance to ask every question you had about the budget but were afraid to ask.
5. It's also the time of year when we start to acknowledge the work of our colleagues. This week you will receive the call for nominations for Senate awards: we honor teaching and graduate mentoring, research, and service – all the components of our jobs.
6. The Committee on Committees is already thinking about next year; by the time you receive this, you will have received a survey on your service preferences. We know we all do a lot, but we like to make it work that you care about, so please fill out the survey!
7. Finally, applications for Faculty grants are due to GRC on March 1.

The Senate works to serve you. If you have questions, or issues that you think need attention, please feel free to mention them to me. In the meantime, I hope you have a productive and stimulating semester. And I encourage you to join me, and our Assembly representatives Wolfgang Rogge and Robin DeLugan, in KL 232 for the meeting of the Assembly on February 15.

Sincerely,



Susan Amussen
Chair