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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
PEGGY O'DAY, CHAIR
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August 22, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the new academic year! As incoming Chair of the UC Merced Academic Senate, I'd like to extend a special welcome to the new faculty joining us this year, as well as to our returning faculty. The Senate membership of the Merced Division now stands at over 160 – another indicator of the growth and progress of our campus.

I'd like to thank Susan Amussen for her excellent work as last year's Senate Chair. Her skill and tireless dedication has helped establish a strong working relationship with campus Administration and set the stage for an exciting and productive year. We look forward to welcoming our new Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, Tom Peterson, to campus in December, and to working closely with him and the Chancellor to develop and implement the next phase of campus growth.

One goal of the Senate for this academic year is to strengthen shared governance and clarify governance processes in our Schools and Graduate Groups. Faculty participation in all matters of the University, both academic and administrative, is central to the University of California. Robust consultation between faculty and administration at all levels relies on clear structures and transparent processes for engagement and decision-making. Senate leadership looks forward to working with Academic Units, Schools, Graduate Groups, and Deans to define and implement effective shared governance processes.

In concert with Chancellor Leland's effort to improve communications across campus, we are already exploring new ways to better communicate Senate activities to faculty. The [Academic Senate website](#) has information about last year's activities, summarized in the Division Council's [Annual Report](#), and the current membership of this year's [Division Council](#) and [Senate committees](#). In addition to the Senate website, look for new modes of communication from the Senate in the coming weeks, and please give us feedback (senatechair@ucmerced.edu) on ways we can better inform you of Senate activities.

The Academic Senate is your voice and your vehicle for carrying out the academic mission of UC and for sharing in the operation and management of the University. The [Senate leadership](#) – me, Vice-Chair Ignacio Lopez-Calvo, the Division Council, and chairs and members of the Standing Committees – are here to serve the faculty and represent faculty interests. We need your input and participation! Please feel free to contact me or any of your Senate representatives throughout the year, and please help us by responding to Senate requests for feedback and service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peggy O'Day".

Peggy O'Day
Chair, Merced Division of the Academic Senate