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Merced Academic Senate



November 2013 Issue

<http://senate.ucmerced.edu>

Senate Monthly Publication

Division News

Your attendance is requested at the Fall Meeting of the Division! Please join us on Tuesday, November 19, 3:00 - 5:00pm, reception 5-6:30pm in the Chancellor's Conference room (KL 232). UC Academic Senate Chair William "Bill" Jacob will be attending. Chancellor Leland and Provost/EVC Peterson will also be in attendance to report on this year's budget request process, strategic focusing initiative, MOU, and physical campus planning. Your participation is vital to reinforce the shared governance of our campus – please join us and voice your opinion! Please see the [meeting agenda](#).

UCM Strategic Academic Focusing Initiative Phase I- Deadline November 15, 2013: As a reminder the full "Academic Focusing Initiative" process will take place through Spring 2014, but preliminary input must be received from you by November 15, 2013. The Phase I deadline will guide the first step in the 2020 Project, producing a "Request for Qualifications" document. Please visit the [website](#) for proposal submittal.

UCM Faculty Professional Development Workshop Series: The Faculty Welfare, Diversity and Academic Freedom (FWDAF) committee and the Academic Personnel Office announce the UC Merced Faculty Professional Development Workshop Series. These series have been developed to provide guidance and support for all faculty members. The first workshop, Work-Life Balance for Faculty, was held November 13. In this workshop, Professor and FWDAF member Tanya Golash-Boza shared proven strategies that enable you to balance teaching, research, and service with other activities that make life enjoyable. The next workshop, Publish and Flourish, is scheduled for December 12 from 12:00-1:30pm in KL 232. A panel of faculty members will offer guidance to faculty members on the publishing process.

Reminder: Guidelines for Senate Consultation: Administrative and non-administrative consultations requests should be sent to Senate Chair López-Calvo at senatechair@ucmerced.edu. See the [Division Guidelines for Senate Consultation](#).

Senate Events:

Committee Meetings:

CAP- Nov. 15 & 22
CAPRA- Nov. 12 & 26
COR- Nov. 6 & 20
DivCo- Nov. 19
FWDAF- Nov. 14
GC- Nov. 7 & 21
UGC- Nov. 6
Joint DivCo/CAPRA- Nov. 7

Meeting of the Division- Nov. 19, KL 232

Meeting 3:00-5:00pm, Reception 5:00-6:30pm

Systemwide Committees:

Academic Council- Nov. 20
BOARS- Nov. 1
CCGA- Nov. 6
UCAF- Nov. 26
UCCC- Nov. 21
UCEP- Nov. 4
UCFW- Nov. 8
UCORP- Nov. 18
UCPB- Nov. 5

Informational Item:

- Council of University Librarian Welcome Letter to President Napolitano: Read the letter [here](#).

Committee Highlights

- **The Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP)** formally requested changes from APO on various categories of the bio-bib function in Digital Measures.
- **The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)** has drafted a proposed set of criteria for evaluating FTE requests.
- **The Committee on Faculty Welfare, Diversity and Academic Freedom (FWDAF)** is leading the Merced Division's response to the Moreno Report.
- **The Committee on Research (COR)** is drafting a new version of the UCM ORU policy.
- **The Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE)** is reviewing the graduate and undergraduate policies within Senate regulations.
- **The Graduate Council (GC)** is commencing its review of five proposed graduate programs: Physics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Molecular Cell Biology, Mechanical Engineering, and Sociology.
- **Undergraduate Council (UGC).** Members have recently approved a revised charge and membership for the General Education Subcommittee and are discussing GenEd in the context of the Strategic Focusing Initiative.

Did You Know...

Professors Suzanne Sindi, Rick Dale, and David Ardell and their collaborators were awarded an \$800,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to explore fundamental similarities and differences in the evolution of biological and linguistic systems. Read more about the [NSF INSPIRE project "From Molecules to Minds"](#).

Systemwide Activities

Independent Investigation Report on Acts of Bias and Discrimination Involving Faculty at UCLA: Former CA Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno led an external panel of community leaders to review incidents of racial and ethnic bias and discrimination. Read the [external review report](#).

UC Care Rollout: UC Care is a new "self-funded" PPO medical insurance plan for UC employees. UCFW's chair informed the Academic Council that the committee and its Health Care Task Force were not provided with timely or complete information as UC Care was being developed. Systemwide Chair Jacob asked President Napolitano to monitor results and engage in continuous quality improvement of UC Care for all employees and ensure that the UCFW Health Care Task Force is fully informed and closely engaged in that effort. Read the [memo from Chair Jacob](#).

BOARS Report to the Regents on the Impact of the New Freshman Eligibility Policy: The [report](#) describes early outcomes resulting from the freshman admission reform policy approved by the Regents in 2009 and implemented in fall 2012.

