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Merced Academic Senate



December 2012 Issue

<http://senate.ucmerced.edu>

Senate Monthly Publication

Division News

The [Division Meeting](#) for fall semester was held on Thursday November 8, and was well attended by Senate members. Invited guests Chancellor Leland and Interim Provost/EVC Traina engaged in lively discussion about faculty hiring and budget requests, strategic academic focusing, and campus physical growth. The spring Division meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2013.

Welcome to our new Provost/EVC! Tom Peterson joins our campus on December 3. Senate is looking forward to a productive working relationship with him. We hope to make progress during the rest of the academic year in directing academic efforts and resources towards expanding our graduate programs, better aligning academic and physical planning, and addressing faculty retention and welfare issues.

Rebenching and Enrollment Management in a Post-Proposition 30 budget world: Across the system, there is relief that Prop. 30 was passed by voters and more cuts to UC's budget were avoided. We appreciate Senate members' efforts in supporting the initiative. Although Prop. 30 revenue will alleviate budget pressure, it does not restore the severe reductions to the systemwide budget over the last five years, nor it does it send new funds directly to our campus. The [report](#) of the UC Rebenching Budget Committee recommends that our campus be excluded from systemwide rebenching for now, which our campus has strongly endorsed. We have emphasized to Academic Council the need for additional funding to grow our graduate population to 12%, a level recommended in the Rebenching report for the other UC campuses. We have advocated that Merced continue to be funded separately until we reach a level of self-sufficiency and benchmarks mutually agreed to by UC and our campus. Merced will not be viable unless we enter the systemwide budget process on equal footing with the established campuses.

Search for a new Academic Senate Executive Director: We are currently searching to fill the position of Senate Executive Director. See [position ad](#). Please share widely with colleagues. Senate Vice-Chair Ignacio Lopez-Calvo is chairing the search committee. Any comments or suggestions are welcome and can be sent to senatechair@ucmerced.edu.

Senate Events:

• [Committee Meetings:](#)

DivCo – Dec 6
UGC – Dec 5
GRC – Dec 11
CAPRA – Dec 13

• [Systemwide Committees:](#)

Academic Council-Dec 19
UCEP – Dec 3
UCPB – Dec 4
CCGA – Dec 5
BOARS – Dec 7
UCORP– Dec 10
UCFW – Dec 14

Announcement:

- Life and Environmental Sciences Academic Unit has been approved by the Administration as a new Bylaw Unit in the School of Natural Sciences



Committee Highlights

- [The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA) has been working on the FTE request process. Following the meetings with all schools, and any written feedback, CAPRA will finalize the guidelines so that this process can begin.
- [The Graduate and Research Council](#) (GRC) discussed faculty consultation in research laboratory safety management and how the UCLA settlement requirements are met with Director David Ott, Office of Environmental, Health and Safety.
- [The Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) discussed the possible systemwide changes to undergraduate financial aid. UGC also reviewed the Political Science and Sociology Bylaw Unit Proposals, and the draft revised WASC Handbook of Accreditation. The Program Review Committee is now fully constituted and will convene in the near future to plan the upcoming site visits.
- [The Committee on Faculty Welfare](#) (FW) concludes the term with a large focus on equity in faculty salary determination and administration (see below). The committee hopes everyone is enjoying a happy and safe holiday season.

Systemwide Activities

Faculty Salary Equity Study – UCOP has directed each campus to analyze faculty salaries for equity across gender and ethnic groups, and for patterns of salary inequity. Campuses are to develop a plan for addressing these inequities. Our Committee on Faculty Welfare is working with the Administration to develop a draft plan that will be reviewed by UCOP before its implementation. See [President Yudof's letter](#).

Proposed Open Access Policy – A [UC-wide policy](#) on open access publishing is currently under systemwide review. Under the proposed policy, UC faculty authors would grant the University a non-exclusive license to make the work available electronically. Faculty members are encouraged to review the proposed policy and forward comments to the [Academic Senate Office](#) by Dec. 5.

Campus Climate Survey to Launch February 1, 2013 – Faculty are encouraged to participate in a [systemwide campus climate survey](#), which will launch electronically for our campus on February 1. Questions will be tailored to specific groups (faculty, students, and staff) and campuses.