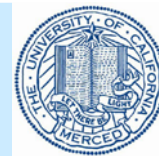


Contact Us:
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Merced Academic Senate



Summer 2013 Issue

<http://senate.ucmerced.edu>

Senate Monthly Publication

Division News

Budget Update: Governor Jerry Brown signed the 2013-14 California budget on June 27, which includes a 5 percent funding increase to UC's base budget and thus avoids a tuition hike in the 2013-14 fiscal year. The final budget adopted much of the May revise, which includes a multi-year funding plan that grows UC's base budget by 5 percent in the 2014-15 fiscal year, and by 4 percent in each of the two years after that. Highlights of the budget include:

- The state's UC allocation totals \$2.8 billion, representing a \$142 million increase over last year's base operating budget.
- Of that \$142 million, \$10M will be dedicated to online technology, \$15M to the UC Riverside School of Medicine; and \$10M towards construction of our new Classroom and Office Building (CAOB), which will provide 51,000 square feet of flexible classroom, academic support, research and office space.
- UC now has the authority to refinance existing debt that the state previously issued on the University's behalf. Of the overall savings in 2013-14, \$67.2M is earmarked for the employer share of the UC Retirement Plan. We anticipate that the remaining funds for CAOB will come from debt restructuring.

Salary Increases for FY2013-14: Effective July 1, 2013, faculty and other non-represented academic personnel will receive a 2% general systemwide salary increase. This increase is intended to partially offset increased retirement and benefit costs that faculty have absorbed over the past few years. Please contact [Becky Gubser](#) in Academic Personnel should you have any questions about the 2013-14 salary plan.

Administrative Search Updates:

- **VPDUE-** The search committee for the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education has completed all campus interviews. Discussions with the top candidate have begun.
- **CIO-** The search committee for the Chief Information Officer has finalized their recommendation and an Administrative decision is anticipated to be made shortly.
- **VPF-** Interviews have been concluded for the Vice Provost for Faculty and the search committee has submitted their recommendation to the Administration.
- **VPDGE-** The search committee has just completed airport interviews for the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education. The schedule for campus interviews will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

Senate Committees for AY13-14: With the exception of two committees, the Committee on Committees has finalized the slate for the Division standing committees and UC systemwide committees. Members of the Academic Senate Leadership are: Division Council Chair Ignacio López-Calvo; Vice Chair Jian-Qiao Sun; CAPRA Chair Anne Kelley; UGC Chair Jay Sharping; GC Chair Valerie Leppert; COR Chair Ruth Mostern; FWDAF Chair Rudy Ortiz; CAP Chair Raymond Gibbs; and Gregg Camfield as Program Review Chair.

Welcome Simrin Takhar to the Academic Senate: We are pleased to announce the addition of Simrin Takhar as the new Senate Senior Analyst. Simrin comes to us from the School of Natural Sciences.



Committee Highlights

- [The Committee on Rules and Elections](#) (CRE) developed a new election system for this year's special election. Election ballot was distributed on June 26 and the election will close on July 9, 2013.
- [The Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) is currently reviewing external review team reports for the Chemistry, Cognitive Science and History academic program reviews.
- [The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA) submitted its report on the School Plans to Provost/EVC Peterson. A budget announcement for FY13-14 is expected from the Chancellor soon.

Systemwide Highlights

Search for UC President: The search is proceeding according to schedule, and it is anticipated that an announcement will be made in mid-to-late July. More information on the status of the Presidential search is available [here](#).

UC Online Education Update: An ongoing webinar series designed to engage UC faculty, staff, and administrators in sharing expertise, best practices, new tools, and innovations for online education has been launched. Webinars are free and open to the UC community. See the [website](#) for the schedule and more information. A request for proposals (RFP) from UCOP to campuses for the Innovation Learning Technology Initiative (ILTI) is anticipated soon. Funding for this initiative was included in the just-approved State budget, and the Governor removed the earmark restrictions and added the funds to the UC budget. Read more [here](#).

Announcements:

- UCOP and CCGA approved the Political Science Graduate Program Proposal. See approval [memo](#).
- AY 2013-14 Systemwide Committee Meeting Schedule is now available. See [meeting schedule](#).
- Congratulations to the [2012-2013 Academic Senate Award Recipients!](#)
- Congratulations to the GRC Faculty Research Grant Recipients! See [list of recipients](#).
- Systemwide Senate approved amendments to APM 015. See [approved amendments](#).
- Systemwide Senate approved BOARS recommendation to adjust statewide freshmen admissions index for Fall 2014. See approval [memo](#).