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OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
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January 27, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

As we start the second semester, I wanted to update you on Senate activities – both things that have happened, and those that are in the works.

- *Instructional Planning:* As I noted in my fall mid-semester update, [CAPRA](#) is developing an instructional model for when we have 10,000 students. CAPRA met with a variety of stakeholders in December, and continues to refine the model, which is intended to support planning in light of our growth.
- *Faculty Hiring Proposal:* In December, following input from the faculty, CAPRA finalized its [hiring proposal](#). The Provost received CAPRA's proposal on December 20th, and is expected to release his plan for allocating FTE in the next few weeks. We are grateful for the written and oral feedback we received from the faculty on this topic.
- *New Graduate Group and Degree:* In November, the [Graduate Council](#) approved a new Graduate Group, Management of Innovation, Sustainability and Technology (MIST); the campus has now sent, for system-level review and approval, a proposal for a new degree title for the campus, a Master of Management proposed by MIST, and recommended it as the campus's first professional degree program.
- *General Education:* The [General Education Subcommittee](#) continues to advance plans for a new General Education program, addressing faculty feedback on the proposed curriculum and collaborating with the administration to develop a resource plan to support the program. The committee deeply appreciates the faculty's responsive, helpful feedback on the proposed curriculum. A revised proposal will be submitted to the Senate in February. Additional details are available at <http://ue.ucmerced.edu/ge/ge-overview>
- *Campus Budget:* On Tuesday, January 31 at 2 p.m., and again on Wednesday, February 8 at 2:30 p.m., the Provost will provide an overview of the campus budget for the faculty. Both meetings will be in KL 232. Please plan to attend. You may RSVP here - <https://goo.gl/forms/iruDWEI7DWJmdzxL2>
- *Workforce Planning:* The Chancellor has created [three teams](#) to help make decisions about the allocation of staff positions: Research Excellence and Academic Distinction, Student Success, and Operational Efficiency. They are expected to make recommendations to the Chancellor on the allocation staff of positions by early April. There are two faculty members on each team. As appropriate, the teams will be in touch with School Executive Committees for comments on proposals. The Chancellor has said that she will be sharing the final proposals with all faculty and staff for feedback.

Shared governance, as you know, depends on you. I know that we're all on (too?) many different committees, given the complex structure of our units. But we all benefit from broad participation in the work of our

committees, all of which make substantive contributions to the campus. So I hope you will be willing, when you are contacted by CoC, to serve on committees.

Fiat Lux,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan Amussen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Susan Amussen, Chair
Merced Division of the Academic Senate