

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
TOM HANSFORD, CHAIR  
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September 24, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Academic Senate, I wish you a belated welcome to the 2019-20 Academic Year. I have only been “on the job” for a little over a month, but it is clear to me that, thanks to constructive efforts of the Administration and the Senate, shared governance continues to strengthen on our campus. This year, the Senate anticipates working with the Administration on the following:

- *Implementation of integrative planning in support of UC Merced’s path towards R1 status.* The Academic Planning Working Group’s Final Report was recently released and now work begins to implement its recommendations regarding both planning and resource allocation. The Senate’s consultative role will be key here.
- *Redesign of the Sponsored Projects Office.* External funding is critical for our research mission, faculty careers, financial stability, and the push towards R1 status. To improve our ability to support the seeking and management of grants, the Office of Research and Economic Development is restructuring its Sponsored Projects Office. The Senate will consult with the administration on this redesign, through regular channels as well as representation on advisory board.
- *Enrollment Management.* There are inevitably tensions between reaching campus enrollment targets and individual programs’ capacity to absorb and serve more students. The newly-created Enrollment Strategy Committee will tackle these tensions, amongst other admissions-related issues. The Senate will also consider addressing the possibility that there currently exist self-imposed barriers preventing transfer students from choosing our campus.

The above really represents just the tip of the iceberg (may this remain a viable metaphor in the future!). To provide a sample of other items on our agenda, the Senate will be 1) reviewing a pre-proposal for the creation of a Gallo School (of Management); 2) working for improved staff retention, workplace climate, and career paths; 3) considering an expansion of the role for Faculty Equity Advisers; 4) reviewing a proposed master’s of science degree in Cognitive and Information Sciences; and 5) considering possible bylaw changes to our structure that would further or initiate the stand-alone status of the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication and the Admissions and Financial Aid Subcommittee of Undergraduate Council.

I would like to conclude by thanking all of you for the contributions you make towards the remarkable, ever-growing success of our campus. Shared governance of an academic institution is a lot of work, but it is this shared

governance that has helped make the University of California the preeminent institution for research and higher learning.

I look forward to working with all of you this year.

Fiat Lux,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Hansford', written in a cursive style.

Tom Hansford  
Chair, Merced Division of the Academic Senate