

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE, MERCED DIVISION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED  
5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD  
MERCED, CA 95343

August 9, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

As I conclude my term as Chair of UC Merced's Academic Senate, let me convey a few reflections. It has been a rewarding experience to serve as Senate Chair. In the past year we endured an extraordinary public health challenge that caused our Senate to respond to many new issues over and above what might be referred to as usual Senate business. Admirably, the Senate represented faculty interests and wellbeing, and collaborated with administration in a strong demonstration of shared governance.

I acknowledge the exceptional work of the Senate committees: Admissions & Financial Aid (AFAC, Abbas Ghassemi, Chair), Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP, Ashlie Martini, Chair), Committee on Academic Planning & Resource Allocation (CAPRA, Patty LiWang, Chair), Committee on Committees (CoC, Wei-Chun Chin, Chair), Committee on Rules & Elections (CRE, Christopher Viney, Chair), Committee on Research (COR, Kara McCloskey, Chair), Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI, Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez, Chair), Faculty Welfare & Academic Freedom (FWAF, Carolin Frank, Chair), Graduate Council (GC, Hrant Hratchian, Chair), Library & Scholarly Communications (LSAC, Maria DePrano, Chair), Privilege & Tenure (P&T, Lin Tian, Chair), Reserve Committee on Academic Personnel (RCAP, Jan Wallander, Chair), Undergraduate Council (UGC, Matt Hibbing, Chair), and At-Large members of Divisional Council: Erin Hestir, Jessica Trounstone, and Justin Yeakel. A special thanks to LeRoy Westerling, for being a terrific Vice Chair.

The work of the Academic Senate would not be possible without our amazing Senate staff: Fatima Paul, Executive Director; Simrin Takhar, Principal Analyst; Naoko Kada, Senior Analyst; Melanie Snyder, Senate Analyst; and Sang Lee, Senate Analyst. The staff is integral to maintaining the Senate's tradition of professionalism and excellence.

Shared governance requires Administration partners. Many thanks to Chancellor Juan Sanchez Muñoz and EVC/Provost Gregg Camfield for being constructive and encouraging collaborators and problem-solvers.

From activities at UC Merced to UC systemwide Senate engagements this past year, I gained a new appreciation for the unique shared governance system of the University of California wherein faculty have the privilege of co-leading the academic mission of the university. I encourage all our faculty to gain Senate experience. It's a fantastic way to learn more about our institution and to contribute to shaping its future.

Fiat Lux,

Robin Maria DeLugan  
Merced Division of the Academic Senate