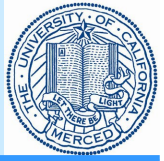


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# Merced Academic Senate



February 2021 Issue

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Senate Monthly Publication

## Division News

### From the Senate Chair:

The Academic Council has [endorsed](#) a letter from the University Committee on Faculty Welfare (UCFW) and the University Committee on Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Equity (UCAADE), with recommendations for mitigating COVID-19 impacts on faculty advancement, morale, work-life balance, and dependent care responsibilities.

The Committee on Research (CoR) has received 58 proposals in response to the annual Senate Faculty Grants Call. 22 proposals are from SNS, 22 from SSHA, and 14 from SoE. CoR is reviewing the proposals and will issue award notifications in late February.

The elections for the members of the Committee on Committees (CoC) and the at-large members of the Divisional Council (DivCo) for Academic Year 2021-22 were conducted on January 19, 2021. 348 ballots were distributed, 173 were returned, representing a 49.7% voter participation rate. The election results are [here](#). The Senate congratulates and thanks the candidates for placing their names in nomination.

Systemwide Senate Chair Gauvain [invites nominations](#) of Senate members to serve as vice chair of the Systemwide Academic Senate in 2021-22. The individual selected will serve as vice chair of the Academic Council and the Academic Assembly, and as a Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents. Candidates are urged to submit their materials by March 22, 2021 to Systemwide Senate Executive Director Hilary Baxter ([hilary.baxter@ucop.edu](mailto:hilary.baxter@ucop.edu)).

The proposal to change the name of UC Merced's Chemistry and Chemical Biology department to Chemistry and Biochemistry was approved by UCOP on January 21, 2021. Please see relevant correspondence [here](#).

Academic Council reviewed comments from Senate divisions and systemwide committees on the Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force report. The task force was charged with examining possible full-time, remote online, undergraduate degree programs at UC. Council's recommendations for next steps are [here](#).

### [UC Campus Safety Symposium](#)

Part 2: March 24, 2021, Time TBD

## FEBRUARY MEETING

### SCHEDULES

### Merced Division

DIVCO – FEB 5, 19  
AFAC – FEB 12  
CAP – FEB 5, 12, 19, 26  
CAPRA – FEB 8, 22  
COC – FEB 4  
CoR – FEB 11, 25  
CRE – FEB 16  
D&E – FEB 22  
FWAF – FEB 10, 24  
GC – FEB 4, 18  
UGC – FEB 8

### Systemwide

ASSEMBLY – FEB 10  
BOARS – FEB 5  
CCGA – FEB 3  
UCACC – FEB 11  
UCEP – FEB 1  
COUNCIL – FEB 24  
UCFW – FEB 12  
UCOC – FEB 23  
UCOLASC – FEB 19

## Committee Highlights

[The Admissions and Financial Aid Committee](#) (AFAC) will convene on February 12.

[The Committee on Academic Personnel](#) (CAP) is conducting its normal business of case review and reviewed the systemwide Faculty Salary Scales Task Force Report.

[The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA) is consulting with the EVC/Provost and APAPB on phase III of academic planning and opined on the proposed academic planning targets and the proposed ORU.

[The Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#) (FWAF) met on 1/27 and discussed ECEC's governance structure, and consulted with the Associate Vice Provost for the Faculty (AVPF) on developing a trauma-informed workplace and a related webinar, and on the AVPF's proposal to create a "racism rapid response team."

[The Committee on Research](#) (COR) is reviewing the Senate faculty grant proposals, preparing to review the conceptualization grant proposals in collaboration with the VCORED, and consulting with the VCORED on the process for instrumentation proposals. CoR is also drafting a summary of the fall semester faculty survey on core facilities.

[The Graduate Council](#) (GC) met on 1/21 and discussed 4+1 program guidelines, fellowships and review guidelines, admissions and enrollment management, and plans for reviewing modifications to Curriculog and the "Resources and Policies" tab in CatCourses.

[The Committee on Rules and Elections](#) (CRE) issued a memo to UGC, the School Executive Committee Chairs and the Registrar regarding the Division's approval of an amendment to SR II.2.A – Residency Requirement. This amendment aligns the Merced Division Residency Requirement with Systemwide Senate Regulation 630. The amendment is now effective and available [here](#).

[The Committee on Diversity and Equity](#) (D&E) met on 1/25 and discussed, with the Associate Chancellor/Chief Diversity Officer and the Associate Vice Provost for the Faculty, the accountability mechanisms for and empowerment of Faculty Equity Advisors and Administrative Equity Advisors, and possible collaboration to develop a "racism rapid response team."

[The Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) will convene on February 8.

[Library and Scholarly Communication](#) (LASC) - opined on the proposed academic planning targets and the proposal for a Community & Labor Center ORU at UCM. LASC also submitted Library support suggestions for the 2030 plan.

[Divisional Council](#) transmitted its [comments](#) on the proposed academic planning targets to EVC/Provost Camfield. Council also [approved the new MAPP 025](#) (Conflict of Commitment and Outside Professional Activities).