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senateoffice@ucmerced.edu

Merced Academic Senate



January 2020 Issue

<http://senate.ucmerced.edu>

Senate Monthly Publication

Division News

From the Senate Chair: Welcome to the 2020 spring semester! While it is technically true that the semester has not yet begun, the Senate is in the process of preparing for what will be a busy semester. As we enter it, I note the Senate Office will be under the very capable leadership of Associate Director Fatima Paul, who assumed Interim Executive Director responsibilities on January 1.

Looking forward, things to come this spring include

- CoR's review and awarding of faculty grants. The call was issued to all faculty on November 13, and proposals are due to the Senate Office by January 24 (senateoffice@ucmerced.edu).
- The annual [Senate elections](#), which will be held in February. It's time for us all to be thinking about colleagues we would like to nominate for open seats on the [Committee on Committees](#) and as at-large members to [Divisional Council](#).
- Senate awards. Later this spring, the call for nominations for the [Senate's annual awards](#) will be issued. All departments are encouraged to nominate an individual for each award.
- The Spring Meeting of the Division, to take place May 7 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in KL 232. At this meeting, recipients of the Senate awards will be announced as well the 2020-2021 Senate Chair and Vice Chair.

If you haven't yet had a chance to complete the Committee on Committee's Senate Service Preference Survey, I encourage you to do so. It's your opportunity to help CoC match service opportunities to your interests. It will also help CoC know if you do not desire to serve on a Senate committee in the coming year due to other obligations.

Finally, I am happy to report that, at its December 12 meeting, the Division approved revisions to [Senate Bylaw II.IV.4](#) addressing the membership and duties of the Library and Scholarly Communication Committee. These will go into effect on January 22, 2020.

In closing, I look forward to a productive spring semester. Best wishes for a professionally satisfying 2020! - Tom Hansford

JAN MEETING SCHEDULES

Merced Division

DIVCO – Jan 22
CAP – Jan 17, 24, 31
CAPRA – Jan 28
CoR – Jan 29
GC – Jan 21
UGC – Jan 31
COC – Jan 29

CONTACT THE CHAIR

Questions, concerns, or issues you would like to see addressed? Contact Senate Chair Tom Hansford at senatechair@ucmerced.edu



Committee Highlights

[The Committee on Academic Personnel](#) (CAP) is conducting business as usual.

[The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA) consulted with Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Budget, Kurt Schnier, on campus budget guidelines.

[The Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#) (FWAF) advised the Associate Vice Provost for Faculty, Zulema Valdez, on the new peer mediation program.

[The Committee on Research](#) (COR) is finalizing the revised Organized Research Unit (ORU) policy and working on a research enhancement proposal.

[The Graduate Council](#) (GC), along with UGC and key campus stakeholders, is discussing proposed changes to the CRF process and Curriculum, as well as a proposal to auto-populate required policy information in CatCourses, all of which are intended to reduce faculty and staff workloads.

[The Committee on Rules and Elections](#) (CRE) is preparing the materials for this year's election. The Call for Nominations will be issued on January 14, 2020. CRE members are also reviewing the Proposed Revisions to APM - 120, Emerita/Emeritus Titles and will provide comments to DivCo by the January 27 deadline.

[The Committee on Diversity and Equity](#) (D&E) finalized revisions to the Faculty Retention Feasibility Assessment, following consultation with DivCo. D&E has also reviewed a draft plan for integrating diversity considerations in program review activities, and will recommend to the Periodic Program Oversight Committee (PROC), UGC, and GC the inclusion of the proposed plan in self-studies. D&E also reviewed comments from Faculty Equity Advisors (FEAs) on a checklist proposed by D&E.

[The Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) approved six courses and the proposal for a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering, effective Fall 2021. The Civil Engineering proposal will be discussed by the Senate leadership on January 22. In the spring, UGC will finalize the Reading/Review/Recitation Week (RRR) policy and the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) policy.

[Divisional Council](#) approved for consideration at the spring Meeting of the Division conformational revisions to Division Regulation [Part II. 2. A Residency Requirement](#). DivCo also endorsed a proposal to establish the [Admissions and Financial Aid Subcommittee](#) of Undergraduate Council as a standalone committee and asked UGC, in consultation with CRE, to draft committee bylaws.