



Contact Us:
senateoffice@ucmerced.edu

Merced Academic Senate

January 2021 Issue

<https://senate.ucmerced.edu>

Senate Monthly Publication

Division News

From the Senate Chair: Welcome to the 2021 spring semester! I hope the winter break was rejuvenating.

Tuesday, January 19 is [Election Day](#) for the Academic Senate. The ballot will be issued on Tuesday, January 12. We encourage you to vote for your colleagues for the open seats on the Committee on Committees and At-Large members of Divisional Council.

Proposals for the AY 20-21 Senate Faculty Grants Program are due before midnight on Monday, January 25. The Call for Proposals is on the [Senate website](#).

At the August 2020 Shared Governance retreat, we made a [pledge](#) to racial equity and to specific actions we will take to combat Anti-Blackness. A Senate-specific action plan involved reviewing our Divisional Bylaws, policies, participating in the Valuing Black Lives at UC Merced Task Force, and generating specific recommendations for eliminating barriers. Beyond our campus, this year, the U.C. Academic Council will also continue to address systemic racism and related inequities.

The Academic Council endorsed the following:

- [UCOPE's request](#) to extend the June 2020 waiver of Senate Regulation 636.C and add a new and retroactive waiver of 636.B, to allow campuses to use alternative placement processes for new UC students enrolling in Fall 2021, Winter 2022, and Spring 2022.
- [UCEP's request](#) to approve divisional flexibility to modify the provisions of SR 782, which outlines the upper limit on courses a student may take on a P/NP basis, until further notice, and retroactive to the spring quarter or semester, 2020.
- [UCOPE's recommendation](#) to extend the temporary modification of the passing requirement for the Entry Level Writing Requirement in SR 636.C.1 to winter and spring terms 2021.
- [UCOPE's letter](#) for circulation to the Vice Provosts and Deans for Undergraduate Education concerning UC's Entry Level Writing Requirement and the systemwide Advanced Writing Placement Examination.

Systemwide Senate Chair Mary Gauvain transmitted a [UCEP letter](#) offering guidance to divisions on issues to keep in mind when considering whether to extend divisional flexibility for grading options through summer 2021.

Finally, I am happy to report that, at its December 17 meeting, the Division approved the revision to [Senate Regulation II.2.A](#). – Residency Requirement to align with [Systemwide Senate Regulation 630](#). The revision will go into effect on Thursday, January 28, 2021. – Robin DeLugan

JANUARY MEETING SCHEDULES

Merced Division

DIVCO – JAN 25
CAP – JAN 15, 22, 29
CAPRA – JAN 25
CoR – JAN 28
CRE – JAN 19
D&E – JAN 25
FWAF – JAN 27
GC – JAN 21

Systemwide

ASCOLI – JAN 25
BOARS – JAN 8
CCGA – JAN 6
COUNCIL – JAN 27
EDIT – JAN 29
UCAADE – JAN 14
UCAP – JAN 13
UCFW – JAN 15
UCOPE – JAN 29
UCPB – JAN 5

Committee Highlights

[The Admissions and Financial Aid Committee](#) (AFAC) has approved the Office of Admissions' request to suspend Part C scoring (Leadership, Awards and honors, academic promise, and perseverance/Determination) from the admissions' reading process.

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

[The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA) is preparing for phase III of academic planning and reviewing several systemwide and campus review items.

[The Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#) (FWAF) discussed the planned ECEC reopening in Spring 2021 and consulted with Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Valdez on the Valuing Black Lives task force report on faculty and staff recruitment and retention.

[The Committee on Research](#) (COR) issued the Call for Proposals for the annual Senate faculty grants program and is reviewing several systemwide and campus review items.

[The Graduate Council](#) (GC) reviewed the Master of Public Health program proposal and consulted with Interim Graduate Dean Kello on fellowships and on the enrollment and funding model.

[The Committee on Rules and Elections](#) (CRE) is currently revising the UCM Senate Bylaws.

[The Committee on Diversity and Equity](#) (D&E) reviewed the new MAPP 025, discussed the Faculty Salary Scale Task Force Report, and consulted with Associate Chancellor & Chief Diversity Officer Matos on her office's EDI initiatives.

[The Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) approved revisions to its policy for the Review and Approval of New/Revised Undergraduate Courses. The policy is available [here](#) and is effective December 18, 2020.

[Divisional Council](#) (DivCo) issued a memo to the Chancellor and EVC/Provost on the proposed distribution of Indirect Cost Recovery (F&A rate) on Research Grants.