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senateoffice@ucmerced.edu

Merced Academic Senate

November 2018 Issue

<http://senate.ucmerced.edu>

Senate Monthly Publication

Division News

From the Senate Chair: With this second newsletter of the year, I am pleased to provide you with updates on Senate-related issues and initiatives from the last month.

First off, it is important you know that the UC is currently re-negotiating its contract with Elsevier, which expires Dec. 31, 2018. The UC's goal is two-fold: to significantly reduce subscription costs and to push for open access. Should these negotiations break down, the UC will lose access to about 1,200 journals (mostly in the sciences). The Library is hosting a faculty open forum on this topic on November 14, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in KL 397. I hope you will consider going.

As mentioned in September newsletter, the Senate is hosting systemwide Academic Senate Chair [Robert May](#) and Vice Chair [Kum-Kum Bhavnani](#) on Monday, November 26. Over the course of the day, Chair May and Vice Chair Bhavnani will meet with representatives from the Senate and the administration to discuss four matters of importance to the faculty: Employee access to health care, faculty diversity, equity and inclusion, the faculty salary gap, and support for student success. The Senate looks forward to providing our systemwide leadership with the local perspective on these systemwide issues.

The Budget Work Group has begun meeting. Areas of focus this year are indirect cost returns, salary recovery stemming from course buy-outs, library funding, summer session, Extension, and revenue generating programs. Following feedback from the Senate and divisional and decanal deans, a meeting is scheduled for November 6 to finalize the charge to the Academic Planning Work Group.

Finally, the Senate is delighted that a Faculty Chair for the General Education program has been appointed. The Senate looks forward to Valerie Leppert's leadership in advancing the implementation of both the GE program and its interim governance structure.

I hope the semester is going well for you all, and wish you a happy Thanksgiving. - Kurt Schnier

NOV MEETING SCHEDULES

Merced Division

Divisional Council – Nov 6, 27
CAP – Nov 2, 9, 16, 30
CAPRA – Nov 1, 15, 29
COR – Nov 7, 28
CRE – Nov 19
COC – Nov 22
D&E – Nov 8
FWAF – Nov 14
GC – Nov 8, 27
LASC – Nov 8
UGC – Nov 8
AFAS – Nov 5

CONTACT THE CHAIR

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



Committee Highlights

[The Committee on Academic Personnel](#) (CAP) members participated in the annual CAP/APO joint meeting on October 18, where tenured and untenured faculty, department chairs, and deans had their questions answered.

[The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA) is working with the interim Provost/EVC on integrated campus planning and the timeline for the call for FTE requests.

[The Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#) (FWAF) next meets on November 14. One of the major items will be working with the administration on solutions to after school, summer, and holiday child care needs.

[The Committee on Research](#) (COR) is finalizing minor modifications to the annual Call for Proposals for the Senate faculty grants. The intention is to issue the Call in November.

[Graduate Council](#) (GC) will be proposing revisions to the unit requirements for thesis and non-thesis master's degrees. GC will also be consulting with VPDGE Zatz regarding new graduate student funding models.

[The Committee on Rules and Elections](#) (CRE) will be finalizing its draft document *UC Merced Voting Policies in Academic Personnel Cases*, following committee feedback.

[The Committee on Diversity and Equity](#) (D&E) will discuss with the interim Provost/EVC and Associate Vice Provost for the Faculty diversity in faculty hiring at their November 8 meeting.

[The Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications](#) (LASC) collaborated with CAPRA on a joint memo about Library space in response to the campus space allocation plan.

[The Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) met with the new faculty Chair for the General Education program, Valerie Leppert, on October 25. Topics of discussion included fully populating the GE Executive Committee. UGC continues to review CRFs, approximately 80 have been submitted.

[Divisional Council](#) (DivCo) endorsed a proposal for a new certificate program in Child Development and Care to be offered by Extension. DivCo also discussed and transmitted to the Library and Scholarly Communications Committee committee comments on the proposed revisions to the membership portion of its bylaws.