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Merced Academic Senate

November 2019 Issue

<http://senate.ucmerced.edu>

Senate Monthly Publication

Division News

From the Senate Chair: With this second newsletter of the year, I write with updates on Senate activities over the last month.

Senate committees, including Divisional Council, are taking an active role in a number of projects that are of interest to faculty. The Committee on Research is involved in the restructuring of sponsored projects administration, and Divisional Council has offered advice on related questions of organizational reporting structures. Committees are also considering the proposed permanent bylaws for the General Education Program, and Divisional Council has hosted Program Chair Valerie Leppert to understand the context for the upcoming November vote. I encourage all departments to take the opportunity to meet with a representative of the General Education Executive Committee, so that faculty are well informed when it comes time to vote.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, one outcome of the third annual Shared Governance Retreat was a refined set of principles to guide engagement in shared governance. These principles are now available on the [Senate website](#) and were shared with participants at the October 24 [Leadership Council](#) as a tool to support project planning.

I am also pleased to announce that two new staff members have joined the Senate Office. In October, the Senate welcomed Naoko Kada as the new Senior Analyst and Melanie Snyder as the new Senate analyst. The Office now has a total staff of five, including Executive Director, Laura Martin, Associate Director, Fatima Paul, and Principal Analyst, Simrin Takhar. The Senate appreciates the administration's investment of a fifth staff line to support the Senate's work.

I am also pleased to share that the Senate has added a new "[Review Items](#)" page to its website. Here you can find a list of the items the Senate has been invited to comment on and the committees that are leading the review on behalf of the Division. We hope this resource will increase transparency regarding the Senate's work and enable Division members to reach out to relevant committee chairs on items of interest.

Finally, the Senate will be holding its annual fall Meeting of the Division on Thursday, December 12, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in KL 232. As always a reception will follow. I hope you will mark your calendars and join us for this meeting. In the meantime, Happy Thanksgiving! - Tom Hansford

NOV MEETING SCHEDULES

Merced Division

Divisional Council – Nov 13
CAP – Nov 1, 8, 15, 22
CAPRA – Nov 7, 21
COR – Nov 5, 19
CRE – Nov 26
COC – Nov 7, 19
D&E – Nov 26
FWAF – Nov 20
GC – Nov 13, 20
UGC – Nov 5, 19
AFAS – Nov 25

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) is consulting with the EVC/Provost and APAPB Schnier on CAPRA's role in academic planning.

[The Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#) (FWAF) next meets on November 20 and is currently reviewing the revised Presidential Policy on Copyright Ownership.

[The Committee on Research](#) (COR) is revising the ORU policy in response to comments received from Senate committees, School Executive Committees, and ORU Directors. The committee is also planning to issue the Call for Proposals for the AY 19-20 Senate faculty grants shortly.

[The Graduate Council](#) (GC) consulted with Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Budget, Kurt Schnier, on the proposed Graduate Student Funding Model, and held discussions on the graduate fellowship application process as well as on revision of the CRF process.

[The Committee on Rules and Elections](#) (CRE) has opined on the proposal for permanent bylaws for the General Education Program, and revised bylaws for the Sociology Department and the Library and Scholarly Communications Committee. CRE plans to revise Division bylaw related to Senate Elections.

[The Committee on Diversity and Equity](#) (D&E) is revising the Faculty Equity Advisor guidelines and the Guidelines for Faculty Retention. In consultation with Associate Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer Matos and the FEAs, D&E members have discussed the PROC request for guidance regarding UCM's priorities for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the context of academic program reviews.

[The Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications](#) (LASC) is reviewing Divisional Council's suggested amendments to LASC's previously proposed committee bylaw revisions.

[The Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) has opined on proposed permanent bylaws for the GE Program and on the charge for an IT Faculty Advisory Committee. UGC is discussing the proposal for a B.S. in Civil Engineering and a proposal to revise the Regents' Scholars Selection Criteria.

[Divisional Council](#) (DivCo) endorsed the proposed name change of the Chemical Sciences major and minor to Chemistry and offered recommendations to the EVC/Provost regarding identification of a Primary Campus Representative for the Scholars At Risk Network.