



Academic Senate

November 2020 Newsletter | senate.ucmerced.edu

Division News:

From the Senate Chair: With this second newsletter of the year, I present you the highlights of Senate activities, both planned and accomplished.

Our Principles of Shared Governance were revised in coordination with the administrative leadership and approved by Divisional Council on October 9, 2020. They are available [here](#).

The Academic Senate has approved revisions to the [Emergency Course Continuity \(ECC\) policy](#) on October 23, 2020. In light of recent suggestions for edits, the policy will be revisited by Divisional Council on November 13, 2020.

A Faculty Townhall will take place today, November 6, from 9:00 - 9:50 a.m. to discuss spring instructional plans, data on student experience and success this semester, lessons learned about remote instruction, faculty support resources and planning for summer, fall and beyond. [Join via Zoom](#).

Childcare

The Senate has been addressing childcare issues, particularly the ECEC, since the COVID pandemic forced its closure in March 2020, with the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom (FWAF) spearheading an effort to connect parents with each other, advocating for modified duties for caregivers, and asking for information on conditions and timeline for ECEC reopening.

On October 1, 2020, FWAF learned that a Request for Information had been issued for private vendors to consider operating the ECEC. At the invitation of EVC/Provost Camfield, and with input from ECEC parents, FWAF issued a memo, laying out what it considers as necessary conditions for a quality daycare, as well as the needs related to childcare that the vendor should provide.

On October 9, 2020 DivCo issued a memo to the administrative leadership regarding the privatization of ECEC.

FWAF met with EVC/Provost Camfield and Interim Chief Financial Officer Riley on October 20,

2020 to learn about the negotiation with a private vendor for ECEC, and advocated, with the Senate Chair, for closer communication with the ECEC families and the Senate.

Discussions about this topic are ongoing.

Grants Funding

On October 26, 2020 Chancellor Juan Sánchez Muñoz and Executive Vice Chancellor & EVC/Provost Gregg Camfield shared a [memorandum](#) in which they announced their approval of additional, one-time institutional funding for AY 20-21 in support of the annual Senate faculty grants program, instrumentation grants, and conceptualization grants. The Chancellor and EVC/Provost approved this funding as a sign of their commitment to UC Merced's research mission and advancement to R1 Carnegie classification.

On November 5, the Senate office distributed the [AY 20-21 Call for Proposals](#) for the annual Senate faculty grants program. The Chancellor and EVC/Provost approved \$100,000 in additional, one-time institutional funding for the faculty grants program this year. The Committee on Research (CoR) will have a total of \$275,000 to allocate for the grants program and can award up to \$10,000 per faculty member. The deadline for submitting proposals is January 25, 2021.

Systemwide Activities

- On November 3, 2020, Systemwide Academic Senate Chair Gauvain distributed her letter transmitting the Academic Council's review of the proposed campus curtailment program. The text of her letter, along with the full set of comments from Senate divisions and systemwide committees, can be found [here](#).
- On November 4, 2020, UCOP shared a statement on the rejection of Proposition 16. The announcement can be found [here](#).
- The Board of Regents' Meeting will take place November 17–19, 2020 at UCSF Mission Bay. Information about the meeting will be published [here](#).

Finally, the Senate will be holding its annual fall Meeting of the Division on Thursday, December 17, 2020, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. I hope you will mark your calendars and join us for this meeting. In the meantime, Happy Thanksgiving!

-Robin DeLugan

Committee Highlights

[The Admissions and Financial Aid Committee](#) (AFAC) considered two proposals put forth by the Office of Admissions:

- i. Modified selection criteria: AFAC voted in favor of removing exam scores and adding alternate GPAs.
- ii. AFAC voted in favor of test-blind admissions for the next two years.

AFAC members discussed and endorsed the SNS proposal to change the name of the Chemistry and Chemical Biology department to Chemistry and Biochemistry. The committee also reviewed and offered comments on the Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force.

[The Committee on Academic Personnel](#) (CAP) is reviewing the proposed revisions to APM 700, the proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 336, and the pre-proposal to establish the Gallo School. The committee also commented on the proposed AY 20-21 curtailment program and continues to conduct its usual business of case review.

[The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA) is evaluating the academic plans submitted by Schools and Divisions and regularly consults with Associate Provost of Academic Planning and Budget (APAPB) Schnier. The committee is also reviewing the pre-proposal to establish the Gallo School, and commented on the proposed name change of the Chemistry & Chemical Biology department and the proposed AY 20-21 curtailment program.

[The Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#) (FWAF) held its regular meeting on October 15, 2020 and discussed its proposal to include teaching professors on CAP (to be pursued in Spring 2021), the proposed curtailment program, campus workgroup on police reform, DivCo's action plan related to campus climate and culture, and Covid-19 mitigation measures.

[The Committee on Research](#) (COR) is reviewing the UC Merced Community and Labor Center's Organized Research Unit (ORU) proposal, the pre-proposal to establish the Gallo School, and the proposed revisions to APM 700. CoR also distributed the AY 20-21 Call for Proposals for the annual Senate faculty grants program and the Call reflects the increase in funds provided by the Chancellor and EVC/Provost. CoR issued a joint survey with Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development (VCORED) Zatz to Senate faculty on core facilities, and approved the charge of the newly-formed CoR/Sponsored Projects Office (SPO) working group. CoR regularly consults with Interim VCORED Zatz on the reopening of campus. CoR also commented on the proposed name change of the Chemistry & Chemical Biology department and the proposed AY 20-21 curtailment program.

[The Graduate Council](#) (GC) met on October 12 and 26, 2020, and discussed self-supporting graduate professional degree programs, academic planning and enrollment management, GC's plan for implementing DivCo's Anti-Racism Action Plan, and the proposed curtailment program. The committee also consulted with Professor Sarah Kurtz on a proposal to establish a 4+1 (BS+MS) program at UCM and the approval process for such a program. Lastly, the committee consulted with Gallo School Initiative Team members about the Gallo School Pre-proposal, and with Interim Graduate Dean Chris Kello on graduate student wellness, newly proposed Diversity Fellowships, and the role of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) researchers in graduate education.

[The Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) members recommended approval of six courses and endorsed the SNS proposal to change the name of the Chemistry and Chemical Biology department to Chemistry and Biochemistry. Council also reviewed and offered comments on the Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force and is currently reviewing the pre-proposal for the Julio and Ernest-Gallo School of Management.

[The Committee on Rules and Elections](#) (CRE) will meet on November 24, 2020..

[The Committee for Diversity and Equity \(D&E\)](#) met on October 19, 2020 and discussed the Administrative Equity Advisor program with Associate Vice Provost for the Faculty (AVPF) Valdez, inclusion of UCM Black Alliance (UCMBA) and Staff and Faculty of Color Association in Senate anti-racism initiatives with UCMBA representative Dr. Maria Martin, and the proposed systemwide curtailment program.

[The Committee on Committees](#) (CoC) has appointed representatives to the following:

- Public Health Work Group
- Vice Chancellor of the Division of Finance and Administration Search Committee
- UC Free Speech Center Advisory Board*
- Knowledge Transfer Advisory Committee*
- UCM Strategic Planning Governance Committee
- GSA representative on Graduate Council

**Systemwide Committees*

[The Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication](#) (LASC) is currently reviewing the pre-proposal for the Ernest & Julio Gallo School of Management and will meet on December 1, 2020.

[Divisional Council](#) (DivCo) has sent comments to the systemwide Academic Senate on the proposal curtailment program and is currently reviewing proposed guidelines for an Authorship Data Sharing Board.

November Meeting Schedules

AFAC – will conduct business via email.

CAP – NOV 13, 20

CAPRA – NOV 10, 24

CoC – NOV 18

CoR – NOV 2, 16, 30

CRE – NOV 24

D&E – NOV 16

DIVCO – NOV 13

FWAF – NOV 17

GC – NOV 9, 23

UGC – NOV 9

BOARS – NOV 6

CCGA – NOV 4

COUNCIL – NOV 23

UCEP – NOV 2

UCFW – NOV 13

UCOLASC – NOV 18

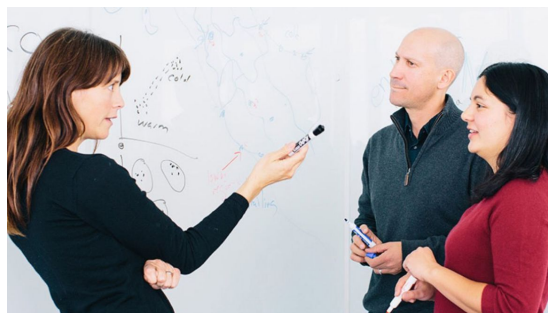
UCORP – NOV 9

UCPB – NOV 3

UCP&T – NOV 20

Contact the Chair

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



Review Items:

A webpage on the UCM Senate website is now available and will be updated regularly. Please click [here](#) to view the items that are currently discussed and reviewed locally and at the systemwide level.



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