



SPRING MEETING OF THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022
2:00 – 3:30 PM
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ROOM 306

I. Chair’s Report and Announcement – *Division Chair LeRoy Westerling*

Chair Westerling thanked the administration for their collaboration in creating more staff positions to clear the backlog surrounding procurement transactions.

Chair Westerling also shared the major, recent topics of discussion from Academic Council which include some UC campuses’ plans to implement fully online degrees and a Memorial to the Regents that requests investments in UC’s infrastructure that will reduce on-campus fossil fuel combustion by at least 60% of current levels by 2030 and by 95% of current levels by 2035. A pro/cons document of the Memorial was distributed to Academic Council and will be shared with all UC Senate faculty.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of the Agenda
- B. Approval of the December 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Campus Update – *Chancellor Muñoz & EVC/Provost Camfield*

The Chancellor thanked Division Chair Westerling for his appreciation for the administration creating more staff positions in procurement. The Chancellor acknowledged that while the situation surrounding the Oracle financial system is not yet fully optimal, it has improved since the fall semester. The campus continues to hire more staff and make human capital investments to support the campus research enterprise.

Earlier this week, the Chancellor was in Oakland for the campus’s annual presentation to UC President Michael Drake. The presentation – which consisted of UC Merced’s goals, finances, and funding requests – was well-received. UC administrators commented positively on UC Merced’s momentum and progress especially given the fact that the campus is not surrounded by wealth like most other UC campuses. UC Merced therefore

has a unique set of challenges. The Chancellor is waiting to hear back on the funding requests he made in his presentation. In the meantime, he continues to interact with local lawmakers: State Senator Anna Caballero and Assembly Member Adam Gray. Earlier this year, the Governor proposed a state spending plan that includes a five-year funding compact with the UC. The compact would increase state support by 5 percent this coming year, with additional 5 percent increases in each of the next five years. The Chancellor stated that UC Merced can continue to make investments if campus enrollment grows. Medical education is one example. The Chancellor stated that he had a positive meeting with the UCSF Chancellor about the extraordinary possibilities for research at medical schools. UC Merced enrollment continues to move in a positive direction. The campus issued 20,000 letters of acceptance. The average GPA of our students increased from 3.65 to 3.75. The Chancellor hopes that the campus will be in a position to respond to the second tranche of campus budget requests, and by next year, he hopes to substantially increase the amount of funding available for the campus.

The Chancellor acknowledged that some faculty attended a meeting today on campus with Dr. Paul LeMahieu, the senior vice president of the Carnegie Foundation. Dr. LeMahieu is helping us envision R1 status and any additional classifications UC Merced may want to apply for, including for sustainability.

The Chancellor recognized the Commencement ceremonies to be held this weekend, the first in-person ceremonies in two years. He also mentioned the Commencement ceremony to be held this Friday for the previous two graduating classes who were unable to have a ceremony due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chancellor thanked the faculty for participating in Commencement.

EVC/Provost Camfield echoed the Chancellor's comments that UCOP and the Regents think highly of UC Merced.

EVC/Provost Camfield then made the following announcements:

- The death of former UC Merced faculty member and internationally renowned isotope geochemist, Marilyn Fogel.
- UC Merced political science faculty member Jessica Trounstine was named a 2022 Carnegie Fellow. He recognized Professor Trounstine's key role in developing the campus's multi-year academic planning process.
- The U.S. Senate confirmed UC Merced faculty member Asmeret Asefaw Berhe to be the new director of the Office of Science in the federal Department of Energy.

EVC/Provost Camfield acknowledged that UC Merced's enrollment is not yet at the number he had hoped. Increasing enrollment is critical to UC Merced's success. He added that Dr. LeMahieu from the Carnegie Foundation shared with him that universities should not pursue R1 status for the status's own sake and should not lose their identities. EVC/Provost Camfield agreed with him and asserted that UC Merced is building an institution that will give access to higher education to those populations that were previously deprived. EVC/Provost Camfield ended his remarks by stating he looks forward to working closely with the Senate next year.

**IV. Divisional Senate Bylaws and Regulations -
CRE Chair, Secretary/Parliamentarian Christopher Viney**

**A. Proposed Amendments to Divisional Senate Bylaw Part II, Title II, Section 3.B.2.B.
Student Selection, Appointment, and Participation.**

Background for the proposed amendments was provided in the correspondence from the Committee on Rules and Elections and the Graduate Council. Proposed Bylaw amendments were described on page 2 of hyperlinked memos on today's agenda and also provided in MSWord format. The Undergraduate Council reviewed this proposal and there were no concerns with the new Bylaw language.

CRE Chair and Secretary/Parliamentarian Viney summarized the proposed amendments. Division members in attendance and on Zoom had no additional comments.

Action: The Merced Division endorsed the proposed amendments to Senate Bylaw Part II, Title II, Section 3.B.2.B. Student Selection, Appointment, and Participation. The revised Bylaw will be effective June 12, 2022.

**B. Proposed Amendments to Divisional Senate Regulation Part II. Section 4 –
Undergraduate Honors**

Background for the proposed amendments was provided in the correspondence from the Committee on Rules and Elections to the Undergraduate Council. Proposed Regulation amendments were described on page 3 of the hyperlinked memo on today's agenda and provided in MSWord format. Divisional Council held a special meeting on May 10, 2022 to discuss the Honors Program proposal. Members unanimously agreed that the Division be invited to vote on the proposed amendments to the Regulation at today's Meeting of the Division.

CRE Chair and Secretary/Parliamentarian Viney summarized the proposed amendments. Senate Chair Westerling clarified that the Division is not being asked to address the substance or content of the campus Honors program proposal today; they are only being asked to consider the proposed amendments to the Regulation.

A Division member asked how UGC can propose a program but not administer it. CRE Chair and Secretary/Parliamentarian Viney responded that in the past, UGC has followed consultative processes for any program that was developed. CRE does not see any issue with UGC proposing this program. Division members discussed various possible edits to the revised Bylaw wording related to "school", "unit", and "department". UGC Chair Moyes pointed out that that the proposed campus Honors program would be administered by the Division of Undergraduate Education and that assessment of the proposed program would be handled by PROC similar to other existing programs.

Division members ultimately agreed that UGC can propose the campus Honors program but cannot administer it and also agreed to simplify the proposed Bylaw revisions to reflect that "Senate Faculty" can propose Honors programs. Division members agreed on the following revised language to the Bylaw:

~~Honors Programs may be proposed by the Merced Division Schools, Academic Programs, Departments, or Undergraduate~~ Senate Faculty may propose Honors Programs that may include Council (UGC) and may include special courses, supplementary and advanced directed study, or both. Such programs must be approved by the Undergraduate Council (UGC) and requirements of the program will be specified by the proposer(s).

Action: The Merced Division voted to endorse the proposed amendments to Senate Regulation Part II, Section 4. Undergraduate Honors. These amendments to the Regulations will be effective June 12, 2022.

V. **Campus Wide Honors Program – UGC Chair Moyes**

The proposal was approved by the Honors Program Working Group on April 8, 2022 and by the Undergraduate Council on April 15. It was distributed for review by the Senate and the Administration on April 15. Comments were due May 9, 2022.

Hyperlinked on today's agenda were the following documents:

- Proposal
- Comments/questions from School Executive Committees, the SSHA Curriculum Committee, School Deans, Department Chairs and UGC's responses
- CRE's approval of the proposed amendments to Section 4 of the UCM Senate Regulations – Undergraduate Honors

UGC Chair Moyes summarized the proposal's main components with a series of PowerPoint slides. She added that the AVC for Enrollment Management is supportive of the proposal. UGC consulted with the following individuals and committees in spring 2022: Divisional Council, School of Engineering (dean and chairs), School of Natural Sciences (dean and chairs), SSHA Curriculum Committee, SSHA dean and department chairs, School of Natural Sciences Executive Committee, School of Engineering Executive Committee, Merit Writing Program Director and Faculty, SSHA Executive Committee, and the General Education Committee (DEI Subcommittee).

UGC Chair Moyes acknowledged that there was some concern about the budget for the proposed campus honors program but added that EVC/Provost Camfield has provided assurances on this issue. She added that she worked with the EVC/Provost and Interim CFO Schnier to determine that the proposed faculty seminars will be funded by student credit hours from the TAS (Instructional Budget). These funds are kicked back to the departments and can be kept or distributed to the faculty as research funds (\$3,500 per unit). UGC Chair Moyes also shared that VPDUE Frey has stated that her existing funds can cover the faculty director position and this individual will be tasked with implementing the campus honors program.

UGC Chair Moyes concluded her summary by stating that the next steps will be for UGC to make some revisions in response to comments received by campus stakeholders and to conduct a soft launch of the campus Honors program in fall 2022. Division Chair Westerling stated that another round of campus review will be conducted in fall 2022 before the final program proposal is put to a Division vote.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENT: AY 22-23 SENATE LEADERSHIP - *CoC Chair Hagger*

CoC Chair Hagger announced the AY 22-23 Senate leadership, including the new and continuing Divisional Council At-Large members.

VII. STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS REPORTS

A summary of Senate Committees' Spring 2022 business is available here.

AY 21-22 Senate leadership:

- Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, Chair Abbas Ghassemi
- Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation, Chair Kevin Mitchell
- Committee on Academic Personnel, Chair Balasubramaniam
- Reserve Committee on Academic Personnel, Chair Martha Conklin
- Committee on Committees, Chair Martin Hagger
- Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Chair Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez
- Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom, Chair David Jennings
- Committee on Research, Chair Jay Sexton
- Committee on Rules and Elections, Chair Christopher Viney
- Graduate Council, Chair Erin Hestir
- Library and Scholarly Communication Committee, Chair Maria DePrano
- Undergraduate Council, Chair Holley Moyes
- Committee on Privilege and Tenure, Chair Lin Tian

VIII. Question and Answer with Senate Leadership

Division members had no questions.

IX. Senate Awards – *Division Chair Westerling*

Senate Chair Westerling announced the following award winners:

- Dr. Fred Spiess Award for Distinguished Service to the Academic Senate
Patti LiWang, SNS
- Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for Senate Faculty
Elaine Denny, SSHA
- Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for Non-Senate Faculty
Kristina Callaghan, SNS
- Distinguished Graduate Teaching/Mentorship Award
Katrina Hoyer, SNS
- Distinguished Early Career Research Award
Xuecai (Susan) Ge, SNS
- Distinction in Research Award
Ashlie Martini, SoE
- Distinguished Scholarly Public Service Award
Edward Orozco Flores, SSHA

- Excellence in Faculty Mentorship Award
Josh Viers, SoE
- Senate Award for Contributions to Diversity
Maria Martin, SSHA
- Senate Award for Contributions to Shared Governance (New)
VPDUE Frey, VPDGE Kello, UGC Chair Moyes, GC Chair Hestir, and Senate staff members (Senate Executive Director Fatima Paul, Principal Analyst Simrin Takhar, Senate Analyst Melanie Snyder, Senate Analyst Sang Lee, and former Senate staff member Naoko Kada).

X. Petitions of Students
No petitions were presented

XI. New Business
No new business was raised

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.
Attest: LeRoy Westerling, Division Chair