



SPRING MEETING OF THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025

3:30-5:00 P.M.

ADMIN 306

To participate via Zoom, Senate members must register here:

https://ucmerced.zoom.us/join/61p-t_XJSTeArWRyRb6WeQ

AGENDA

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|-------------|---|---------------|
| I. | CHAIR'S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS – <i>Division Chair Kevin Mitchell</i> | 10 MIN |
| II. | CONSENT CALENDAR¹ | 0 MIN |
| | A. Approval of the Agenda | |
| | B. Approval of the December 16, 2024, Meeting Minutes | |
| III. | CAMPUS UPDATE – <i>Chancellor Muñoz & EVC/Provost Dumont</i> | 20 MIN |
| IV. | Q&A SESSION | 10 MIN |
| V. | DIVISIONAL SENATE BYLAWS² | 10 MIN |
| | <i>FWAF Chair Beaster-Jones & CRE Chair, Secretary/Parliamentarian Jeff Yoshimi</i> | |
| | i. Proposed Amendments to Senate Bylaw II.III.6³ (Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom) | |
| | ii. Proposed New Bylaws for the Committee on Academic Freedom | |
| | iii. Proposed Amendments to Senate Bylaws II.III.⁴ and II.IV.⁵ | |

On November 8, members of the Divisional Council (DivCo) unanimously endorsed a proposal from the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom (FWAF) to split FWAF into two stand-alone committees:

- The Committee on Faculty Welfare and

¹ Agenda items deemed non-controversial by the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Division, in consultation with the Divisional Council, may be placed on a Consent Calendar under Special Orders. Should the meeting not attain a quorum, the Consent Calendar would be taken as approved. (Quorum = the lesser of 40% or 50 members of the Division.) At the request of any Divisional member, any Consent Calendar item is extracted for consideration under "New Business" later in the agenda. Jeff Yoshimi, Secretary/Parliamentarian.

² If approved by the Division, amendments to the Bylaws will be effective June 17, 2025.

³ <https://senate.ucmerced.edu/bylaws-merced-division#FWAF>

⁴ [Senate Bylaw II. III. Standing Committees on Faculty and Senate Affairs: Their Powers and Duties](#)

⁵ [Senate Bylaw II. IV. Standing Committees on Research and Educational Affairs: Their Powers and Duties](#)

- The Committee on Academic Freedom

The rationale for this proposal is outlined in FWAF's [November 1 memo](#).

On April 4, 2025, members of FWAF unanimously approved the proposed amendments to the current FWAF Bylaws to reflect the formal establishment of a distinct Committee on Faculty Welfare (CFW). In a parallel action, FWAF also unanimously approved the adoption of newly proposed Bylaws for the creation of a separate Committee on Academic Freedom (CAF). Since the addition of a student representative is being considered for the CAF, this change automatically resulted in the need to expand Sections II.III. and II.IV of the Divisional Bylaws. Amendments were approved by the Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE) on April 22, 2025, and [DivCo on Monday, April 28, 2025](#).

Proposed amendments are linked below

- [Committee on Faculty Welfare](#)
- [Committee on Academic Freedom](#)
- [Bylaws II.III and II.V.](#)

Action: The Merced Division votes to endorse the proposed amendments to Senate Bylaws.

VI. UC BERKELEY'S RESOLUTION – *Division Chair Kevin Mitchell* 10 MIN

On April 22, 2025, the UCB Division approved a [Resolution to Protect Academic and Political Freedom](#). 92% of participants voted and, of those voting, 100% voted in favor.

Action: The Merced Division votes to endorse UCB's Resolution.

VII. AY 25-26 SENATE LEADERSHIP – *Committee on Committees Chair Lisa Yeo* 5 MIN

VIII. SENATE AWARDS – *Division Chair Kevin Mitchell* 20 MIN

- [Dr. Fred Spiess Award for Distinguished Service to the Academic Senate](#)
- [Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for Senate Faculty](#)
- [Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for Non-Senate Faculty](#)
- [Distinguished Graduate Teaching/Mentorship Award](#)
- [Distinguished Early Career Research Award](#)
- [Distinction in Research Award](#)
- [Distinguished Scholarly Public Service Award](#)
- [Excellence in Faculty Mentorship Award](#)
- [Senate Award for Contributions to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#)

IX. PETITION OF STUDENTS [NONE]

X. NEW BUSINESS 5 MIN

Glossary of [UC Merced](#) and [Systemwide](#) Academic Senate Committee Acronyms

AFAC – Admissions and Financial Aid Committee
CAP - Committee on Academic Personnel
CAPRA - Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation
CoC - Committee on Committees
COR - Committee on Research
CRE - Committee on Rules and Elections
DivCo - Divisional Council
EDI - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
FWAF - Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom
GC - Graduate Council
LASC - Library and Scholarly Communication
P&T - Privilege and Tenure
RCAP – Reserve Committee on Academic Personnel
UGC - Undergraduate Council

BOARS - Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools
CCGA - Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs
COUNCIL - Academic Council
UCAF - University Committee on Academic Freedom
UCAP - University Committee on Academic Personnel
UCAADE - University Committee on Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Equity
UCACC - University Committee on Academic Computing and Communications
UCEP - University Committee on Educational Policy
UCOC - University Committee on Committees
UCFW - University Committee on Faculty Welfare
UCIE - University Committee on International Education
UCOLASC - University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication
UCPB - University Committee on Planning and Budget
UCOPE - University Committee on Preparatory Education
UCORP - University Committee on Research Policy
UCPT - University Committee on Privilege and Tenure
UCRJ - University Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction