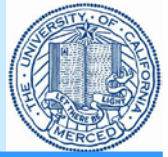


Contact Us:
senateoffice@ucmerced.edu

Merced Academic Senate



December 2018 Issue

<http://senate.ucmerced.edu>

Senate Monthly Publication

Division News

From the Senate Chair: As the first half of the 2018-19 academic year comes to a close, I'd like to thank Senate committees for a productive fall, and the Division for its engagement in the many review items that have and continue to come its way, recognizing that the Senate's comments and recommendations strengthen the campus's and system's work in ways large and small.

In the last month, the Senate has hosted two important events. On November 26, systemwide Senate Chair Robert May and Vice Chair Kum-Kum Bhavnani spent the day on campus talking with Senate committee members and administrative leadership about matters of significance to Merced faculty. Topics included access to health care for faculty and staff, closing the faculty salary gap, diversifying the faculty, and resourcing undergraduate student success. Chair May and Vice Chair Bhavnani reported that the visit significantly enriched their understanding of our campus.

On December 4, the annual [Fall Meeting of the Division](#) took place. Participants received updates on planning for the Gallo School, the proposed spring 2019 activities for the Academic Planning Work Group, and next steps in campus space planning, the presentation for which is available on the Senate website [here](#). We hope you will participate in the Spring Meeting of the Division, which will take place on April 15 and at which next year's Senate leadership will be announced and the annual [Senate awards](#) made.

On December 4, the Committee on Committees issued its annual Senate Service Preference Survey, which will close on December 18. I encourage you to complete the survey, if you have not already. The information you provide will help CoC match service opportunities to your interests and expertise or let them know not to contact you, if you are on sabbatical.

Finally, it is our understanding that the [negotiations with Elsevier](#) (see also LASC Committee highlights below) may likely result in the UC system losing access to journal content published after December 31, 2018. We will keep you updated.

Best wishes for a festive and restorative holiday break and for a productive and satisfying 2019! - Kurt Schnier

DEC MEETING SCHEDULES

Merced Division

Divisional Council – Dec 11

CAP – Dec 7, 14

CAPRA – Dec 13

COR – Dec 12

CRE – Dec 10

COC – None

D&E – Dec 6

FWAF – None

GC – Dec 6

LASC – None

UGC – Dec 13

AFAS – Dec 10

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) is conducting business as usual.

[The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA) is finalizing the Call for FTE requests for transmittal to the interim Provost/EVC.

[The Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#) (FWAF) will reconvene in spring and will consult with the administration on after-school, holiday, and summer childcare.

[The Committee on Research](#) (COR) issued its Call for Proposals for the Senate faculty grants on November 16. Proposals are due to the Senate Office January 22 (senateoffice@ucmerced.edu). CoR continues to revise its policy for establishing an ORU.

[Graduate Council](#) (GC) has revised its *Policy on Non-Ladder Rank Faculty Eligibility to Teach Graduate Courses* and proposed, for campus consideration, revisions to the unit requirements for non-thesis master's degrees.

[The Committee on Rules and Elections](#) (CRE) commented on the proposed *Principles to Guide the Conduct of Executive Sessions* and will be finalizing its draft document *UC Merced Voting Policies in Academic Personnel Cases*.

[The Committee on Diversity and Equity](#) (D&E) has proposed a Senate Award for contributions to diversity. D&E also commented, with FWAF, on CAPRA's recommendations to the interim Provost/EVC on the number of faculty lines reserved for spousal and opportunity hires.

[The Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications](#) held an open forum, with the Library, on UC negotiations with the publisher Elsevier. The forum's recording and associated background documents are available [here](#).

[The Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) is discussing the recent discontinuation of the Environment Chemistry Emphasis of the Chemical Sciences program, and a proposal from the School of Engineering to require students to have a laptop. UGC endorsed a proposal to conduct concurrently the program reviews of the Economics and Management and Business Economics degree programs.

[Divisional Council](#) (DivCo) consulted with the Vice Chancellor and Associate Vice Chancellor for Research regarding the federal government's concerns about foreign influence on research. DivCo is considering the role of school executive committee chairs vis-a-vis DivCo meetings.