



FALL MEETING OF THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020
2:00 – 3:30 PM
ZOOM

I. Chair's Reports and Announcements – *Senate Chair DeLugan*

Chair DeLugan welcomed faculty and thanked Senate committee chairs and the Senate staff for their work this semester. She acknowledged the difficulties everyone has experienced this year due to the pandemic. She informed attendees that at both the campus and systemwide levels, leadership is taking measures to mitigate those difficulties. Chair DeLugan encouraged faculty members to review the Senate website and stay informed of Senate activities. She also pointed out that the Senate Office distributes weekly Senate digests via email of pending campus and systemwide review items as well as informational items to keep faculty apprised of Senate business. She encouraged faculty members to send any questions or comments to the Senate Chair email address, senatechair@ucmerced.edu.

Chair DeLugan also reiterated the importance of shared governance and referred faculty members to the principles of shared governance that were developed by the Senate. She also encouraged faculty members to respond to the Committee on Committees (CoC) survey regarding Senate service for AY 2021-2022. Three positive and recent examples of shared governance between the Senate and the administration are:

- UC Merced administration decided not to implement a salary reduction program after reviewing feedback from faculty members.
- Collaboration on COVID-19 mitigation measures. For example, Divisional Council, at their meeting on December 11, agreed to extend the emergency educational continuity policy through summer 2021.
- Continued work by the Senate-Administration Valuing Black Lives Task Force.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of the Agenda
- B. Approval of Draft Minutes of the May 7, 2020 Meeting of the Division
- C. Annual Committee Reports AY 19-20
 - i. Divisional Council
 - ii. Committee on Academic Personnel
 - iii. Reserve Committee on Academic Personnel
 - iv. Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation
 - v. Committee on Research
 - vi. Committee on Rules and Elections
 - vii. Diversity and Equity

- viii. Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom
- ix. Graduate Council
- x. Library and Scholarly Communication
- xi. Undergraduate Council

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

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

Chancellor Muñoz made the following announcements:

- He began his remarks by thanking faculty for providing their thoughtful input on the proposed curtailment/salary reduction program. The documentation he received from the Senate together with his conversations with Chair DeLugan helped campus leadership reach the decision that this is not the right time to fix the UC's fiscal issues at the expense of employees. However, Chancellor Muñoz clarified that this is just the beginning of an ongoing dialogue about the UC's finances independent of the COVID-19 pandemic. He will advocate for clear communication with the campus so that all employees are kept apprised of the university's financial foundation and situation.
- Chancellor Muñoz thanked the Senate Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom (FWAF) for their work regarding the ECEC. The campus issued a statement recently regarding the reopening of the ECEC. He acknowledged the importance of the ECEC in terms of faculty recruitment and retention. However, he pointed out that the ECEC has operated at a loss since its beginning and stated that the campus needs to re-envision ECEC operations moving forward.
- Chancellor Muñoz announced that the campus is working towards building additional capacity for COVID-19 testing and will receive guidance from the UC system relative to vaccinations when the vaccine becomes available in plentiful quantities. UC Merced has provided low-temperature refrigerators for the county's use to receive the vaccinations. This illustrates the fact that the campus is a benefit to the region and our relationship must be symbiotic. Chancellor Muñoz stated that by fall 2021, he hopes to restore the campus's normal population to the extent possible. He emphasized his aforementioned point about keeping the campus apprised of the budget situation.
- Chancellor Muñoz stated that he and EVC/Provost Camfield enjoyed hearing the presentations from the Valuing Black Lives Task Force. He plans to carefully study the task force subcommittees' recommendations and formulate a plan for the campus to implement short term and long term goals that derive from the task force's work.
- Chancellor Muñoz acknowledged that human capital is the campus's most precious asset and reiterated that the campus chose not to implement salary reduction measures for this fiscal year. He emphasized the importance of social justice and restated the campus's efforts to increase the capacity for COVID-19 testing. The main measure that will help the campus achieve its many goals is increased student enrollment of incoming freshmen and transfer students.
- Chancellor Muñoz thanked faculty and administrators, specifically EVC/Provost Camfield, Campus Diversity Officer Dania Matous, and Interim Vice Chancellor for

Research and Economic Development (VCORED) Marjorie Zatz. He is hopeful that UC Merced will emerge from the current difficulties and will thrive and move forward in the next iteration of the campus with all its promise and resiliency with excellence, access, and equity.

EVC/Provost Camfield made the following announcements:

- Our enrollment was flat mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic had a significant impact on the state's budget, and we lost out on the tuition increase and the increase in funding in the state budget that was scheduled to be allocated to the UCs. However, UC Merced has the power to mitigate these losses by increasing its efforts to enroll transfer students. The campus should ensure that we are eliminating barriers in the pathways for transfer students and ensure that our admissions standards for transfer students are appropriate. We are forging connections with community colleges and utilizing a grant from the state to develop pathways with Bakersfield and Merced community colleges. Increasing the number of transfer students will help the campus reach its enrollment goal and ease its financial burden. EVC/Provost Camfield also pointed out that other UC campuses lost out on enrolling out of state and international students due to the pandemic and the Trump administration's prohibitive policies. Since the other UC campuses failed to meet their enrollment targets, they went deeper into their waiting lists. That effected cascaded down to UC Merced, and we had the highest melt in our history. Because of this, our enrollment did not grow last year. EVC/Provost Camfield encouraged faculty to help find ways to eliminate the transfer student pathway barriers.
- EVC/Provost Camfield is empanelling a task force to draft guidelines and expectations for faculty personnel review under the pandemic. UC Davis has drafted such guidelines that UC Merced can borrow from. It is important for us to be proactive and intentional.
- Summer and fall 2021 instruction will be mostly online but EVC/Provost Camfield is hopeful that some courses will be held in-person.
- EVC/Provost Camfield thanked faculty for their input on the Valuing Black Lives Task Force and stated that he will create dashboards and other resources for the campus.
- EVC/Provost then spoke of the national political crisis, specifically, the denial of the peaceful transition of power that historically occurs in this country. However, with the Biden administration, the UC can expect an immediate return to protection for DACA students, less restrictive measures for international students and faculty, immediate suspension of rule against anti-racist training, and a change in the policies that limit climate change knowledge. All of these are important for the UC and the federal government can help or hinder the UC mission. Since 1980, the rhetoric of higher education has turned to the economic benefits of higher learning. Now, we are seeing the consequences of the attenuation of higher education. The maintenance of a civil polity is at the heart of the UC mission.

IV. Proposed Revision to Senate Regulation Part II. Section 2. A.- Residency Requirement

Parliamentarian Christopher Viney summarized the background information provided on the meeting agenda. The Registrar has requested the Senate align the Division's residency requirement, outlined in UCM Senate Regulation II.2.A, with Systemwide Senate Regulation 630. The Division's residency requirement is currently less restrictive than SR 630. The Undergraduate Council (UGC), the Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE) previously endorsed the proposed revision.

Division members in attendance had no comments. Parliamentarian Viney called for a vote which was held electronically during the meeting.

Action: The final vote was 51 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions. The proposed revisions to Senate Regulation Part II. Section 2. A is approved.

V. Standing Committee Chair Reports

The Senate committee chairs or chairs' delegates provided brief, oral updates on their respective committees' activities in fall 2020:

- Admissions and Financial Aid Committee (AFAC):

AFAC is a new stand-alone Senate committee established in May 2020. The current membership consists of the following Senate and administrative representatives:

- Abbas Ghassemi, Chair, School of Engineering, BOARS representative
- Erik Menke, Vice Chair, School of Natural Sciences
- Charlie Eaton, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Ex-Officio (non-voting):

- Dustin Noji, Director, Admissions and Outreach
- Jill Orcutt, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management (AVC Orcutt serves and as an alternate for Charles Nies, Vice Chancellor - Student Affairs)
- Ron Radney, Director, Financial Aid and Scholarships

Staff support is provided by Senate Executive Director Fatima Paul.

AFAC held its inaugural meeting on September 14 and meets once a month. The committee also conducts its business via email. What follows is a brief summary of the actions/discussion campus and systemwide items.

Campus Items –

- Endorsed revisions to the rubric used for ranking potential Regents' Scholars recipients. This revision was prompted by the UC Regents' vote in May 2020 to approve the suspension of the SAT/ACT.
- Offered comments on draft annual publications for admissions.
- Reviewed and commented, in consultation with the School Executive Committees, on the Office of Admissions' proposal for modified first year selection criteria.
- Approved amendments to the guidelines for Admissions by Exception.
- Voted in favor of removing exam scores and adding alternate GPAs for the selection criteria.
- Voted in favor of test-blind admissions for the next two years.
- Endorsed the School of Natural Sciences' proposal to change the name of the Chemistry and Chemical Biology department to Chemistry and Biochemistry. It is our understanding that the proposal has been submitted to UCOP for review and endorsement.

Systemwide Items -

- Offered comments on the following two systemwide review items:
 - Proposed revisions to Systemwide Senate Regulation 630
 - Report of the Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force
- It is AFAC's hope that the Senate membership of AFAC will be expanded in the future to at least 4 representatives, ideally five or more, in the Spring given the increasing workload of the committee.

- The AFAC chair thanked the committee analyst for her work.
- Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA):

CAPRA member Jessica Trounstine provided the below update on behalf of absent CAPRA Chair Patti LiWang.

- CAPRA's main task this semester was the review of the School and Division draft academic plans in accordance with Phase II of the campus's multi-year academic planning process. CAPRA submitted its recommendations to Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Budget Kurt Schnier on November 13.
- CAPRA sent a memo to Schools and Divisions via Associate Professor Schnier that stated the committee's appreciation for the hard work that everyone did in drafting their academic plans. We realize that these are exceptional times, with many other pressures and unknowns. We would like to assure you that we are working with the administration to continuously clarify what is requested and how the information can most efficiently be used in the planning process. Any comments or critiques we make of your plans are not intended to be critical, but rather to help us in the future have a consistent set of documents that can be more easily compared for planning purposes.
- CAPRA reviewed a number of campus and systemwide items this semester:
 - Pre-proposal to establish the Gallo School of Management
 - Proposal to establish the UC Merced Community and Labor Center ORU
 - Proposed distribution of Indirect Cost Recovery on Research Grants
 - Proposed AY 20-21 systemwide curtailment plan
 - Draft academic planning targets
 - Faculty salary scales task force report
 - In response to the Senate Chair's request for Senate committees to examine their bylaws for ways to expand diversity, equity, and inclusion, CAPRA submitted revised bylaws that propose to be mindful of issues of diversity and equity when the committees assesses budgetary proposals and resource allocation.
 - Throughout the semester, CAPRA benefited from regular consultations with Associate Provost Schnier who is an ex-officio member of the committee.
 - Throughout the semester, the CAPRA chair attended meetings of the Joint Council.
- Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP):
 - CAP conducted its normal business of case review. This year's committee consists of 6 internal members and 4 external members representing the campuses of Davis, Irvine, San Diego, and Riverside.
 - In September, the CAP chair and vice chair participated in VPAP Teenie Matlock's virtual workshops for department chairs and assistant faculty. The discussion topics included an overview of the academic review process, MAPP policies, and the impact of the pandemic on faculty research.

- CAP reviewed campus and systemwide items including the pre-proposal to establish the Gallo School of Management, the proposed AY 20-21 curtailment program, and the faculty salary scales task force report from systemwide.
- In response to the committee on Faculty Welfare & Academic Freedom requesting the inclusion of Teaching Professors on CAP, CAP members agreed that it is CoC's purview to select faculty to serve on Senate committees. Teaching Professors, being Senate faculty, are eligible to serve on CAP as full, regular members, as well as other Senate committees.
- In response to the Senate Chair's request that Senate committees review their bylaws to expand diversity, equity, and inclusion, CAP supported a general Senate-level statement on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Per APO's eligibility list, CAP is expecting nearly 80 cases in the spring and the committee would appreciate timely submission of those cases. The last CAP meeting is June 18 as stated on the Senate's website.
- Reserve CAP (RCAP):
 - On behalf of RCAP Chair Jan Wallander, the update from RCAP was provided by CAP Chair Ashlie Martini.
 - RCAP meets as necessary.
 - In response to the Senate Chair's request that Senate committees review their bylaws to expand diversity, equity, and inclusion, RCAP supported a general Senate-level statement on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - As a reminder, RCAP is a separate, standing committee that reviews appeals, cases of current CAP members, and cases of members who termed off CAP in the preceding year.
- The Committee on Committees (CoC):
 - CoC appoints the members of all standing and special committees as well as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Division and the Secretary/Parliamentarian. The CoC chair sits on the systemwide University Committee on Committees (UCOC), which fulfills the same role as CoC at the system level and on Merced's Divisional Council.
 - At the beginning of the Fall semester, CoC endorsed a new document called the CoC Principles that will guide the committee's appointment process this AY and in the future. Most recently CoC revised its Bylaws to address the issue of dual appointments next academic year.
 - This fall, CoC has been very busy primarily with addressing requests for faculty representation on campus and systemwide senate committees, search committees, work groups, task forces etc.
 - Regarding the latter, at the campus level, CoC has nominated faculty representatives to:
 - Public Health Work Group
 - Search Committee for the VC of the Division of Finance and Administration

- UCM Strategic Planning Governance Committee
- Budget Review committee
- Chancellor Advisory Committee for Land Use
- Federal Demonstration Partnership
- Black Research Fellowship Review Committee
- Institutional Biosafety Committee
- D&E membership
- CoR membership
- AFAC membership

- At the system level, CoC nominated representatives to:
 - UC Free Speech Center Advisory Board
 - Knowledge Transfer Advisory Committee
 - University Committee on Academic Computing and Communications

- CoC thanks all Senate faculty members for their willingness to serve in these roles, as faculty participation is essential to ensuring the faculty's experience and expertise are reflected in the university's planning and decision making.

- Finally, CoC has issued its annual Senate Service Preference Survey in anticipation of initiating its efforts to populate committees for AY 2021-2022. CoC thanks those who responded to the survey as it will be a very useful resource during CoC's deliberations of next year's Senate slate.

- Committee for Diversity and Equity (D&E):
 - Discussed how the Senate could ensure Black faculty participation in its work on equity and inclusion. We are behind on this issue—we need to have more under-represented minority in the Senate as a whole.
 - Invited representatives from the UCM Black Alliance and Staff and Faculty of Color Association to its meetings. D&E learned about their organizational priorities, and sought their input into D&E's work, including the review of D&E bylaws, as well as DivCo's Anti-Racism Action Plan.
 - Was represented in DivCo's Anti-Racism Workgroup and Campus Climate and Culture Workgroup.
 - Vice Chair co-chaired the Senate/Administration joint workgroup on Faculty-Graduate Student Conflict Resolution Infrastructure Workgroup
 - Discussed the proposed revision to systemwide Senate Bylaw 336.F.8. and the proposed new MAPP 025.
 - Had fruitful consultation with AVPF Valdez, an ex-officio member, and in the process of adding Associate Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer Matos as another ex-officio member. CDO Matos has expressed interest in regular attendance. CDO Matos attended two meetings this semester and presented her offices many initiatives and discussed possible collaboration with D&E on these initiatives. Given the recent events, including the cases of George Floyd and others, it is ever more important for all of us to engage in and dedicate ourselves to diversity and equity issues.

- Chair also recognized the participation of D&E members and welcomed a new member Suzanne Sindi.
- Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom (FWAF):
 - Continued to advocate for access to quality childcare, not only on behalf of faculty but also staff and students, and for ECEC reopening in particular.
 - Held 5 special meetings on ECEC, including two with the EVC/Provost
 - Gathered information from ECEC parents and all other campuses' daycare directors about COVID-related closures, protocols, and potential outbreaks
 - Advocated, for clear communication with the ECEC families and the Senate, on the plan to privatize ECEC
 - Had two members participate in DivCo workgroup on campus climate and culture, and one member in the joint Senate/administration workgroup on Faculty-Graduate Student Conflict Resolution Infrastructure
 - Discussed COVID mitigation measures and commented on the campus COVID mitigation plan at VPF's and EVC/Provost's request
 - Consulted with AVPF Valdez on the use of diversity and research statements, the proposed authorship dispute board, and Valuing Black Lives Task Force Report.
 - Reviewed some items but not as many as would have liked to, due to ECEC-related workload.
- Committee on Research (CoR):
 - In November, CoR distributed the annual Call for Proposals for the Senate Faculty Grants Program. The committee is grateful to the Chancellor and EVC/Provost for allocating an additional \$100,000 to the program for this academic year. Proposals are due to the Senate Office by January 25, 2021.
 - The Chancellor and EVC/Provost also allocated \$200,000 in new funding to support instrumentation grants and \$200,000 in new funding to support conceptualization grants. CoR collaborated with Interim VCORED Zatz who recently issued a Call for Proposals to Senate faculty for conceptualization grants. CoR is currently consulting with Interim VCORED Zatz on a plan for instrumentation grants.
 - CoR reviewed the proposal to establish the UC Merced Community and Labor Center ORU. After requesting revisions from the lead authors, CoR endorsed the revised proposal. The revised proposal is currently under Senate review.
 - CoR collaborated with Interim VCORED Marjorie Zatz to issue a survey to faculty on core facilities. CoR is currently analyzing the results.
 - CoR collaborated with Graduate Council and the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom on a memo to the Senate Chair on the Data and Authorship Dispute Boards Policy.

- In response to the Senate Chair's request that Senate committees review their bylaws to expand diversity, equity, and inclusion, CoR submitted revised bylaws that states that CoR ensures that all their duties are carried out in a manner to increase and reflect the diversity of the faculty as outlined in UC Regents' Policy 4400.
- CoR benefits from regular consultation with Interim VCORED Zatz, who is an ex-officio member of the committee, on campus research relaunch during the pandemic.
- CoR has consulted with Assistant Vice Chancellor Debbie Motton on ORED reorganization, SPO Director Jue Sun on SPO's reorganization, and campus biosafety officer Aparupa Sengupta.
- CoR opined on several campus and systemwide review items:
 - The pre-proposal to establish the Gallo School of Management
 - The proposed, systemwide AY 20-21 curtailment plan
 - Proposed distribution of Indirect Cost Recovery on Research Grants
 - Proposed academic planning targets
 - Faculty salary scales task force report
 - Proposed revisions to the Leave-Related Policies of APM 700
- Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE):
 - This Fall semester, CRE convened twice via zoom and conducted some business via email. The principal duties of CRE are to advise senators on all matters of organization, jurisdiction and interpretation of legislation of the Academic Senate; review changes to Bylaws and Regulations; issue legislative rulings; and supervise all Senate Elections. With regard to the latter, all Senators have received a call for Nominations for the DivCo, At-Large and the Committee on Committees' positions. The call for nominations was issued on November 18 and an extension to the Call followed on December 3. The Call closed on December 16. As of today, December 17, we have received five nominations for the CoC positions and two for the DivCo At-Large seats. The ballot will be issued on January 12, 2021 and Election Day is January 19. I would like to thank my colleagues who self-nominated and those who nominated their colleagues.
 - Last academic year, Senate committee chairs were invited to review their respective Bylaws and propose edits for consideration by CRE. This exercise has resumed this year, with a particular focus on identifying language in the Bylaws that may be deemed prejudicial. In the context of the Bylaw revisions, CRE will also examine the election process and adjust it as relevant.
 - The goal is to invite members of the Senate to vote on Bylaw amendments at the Spring Meeting of the Division.
 - CRE reviewed and transmitted comments to Divisional Council on the following items:
 - Proposed revisions to Systemwide Senate Regulations 544 (Registration), Senate Regulation 630 (Requirements for the

- Bachelor's Degree) and to Senate Bylaw 336.F.8 pertaining to Evidentiary Standards in PT cases.
 - The SNS proposal to change the name of the Chemistry and Chemical Biology department to Chemistry and Biochemistry.
 - The pre-proposal for a Gallo School of Management.
 - The CRE chair thanked the committee analyst for her work.
- Graduate Council (GC):

During Fall 2020, GC met biweekly, a total of 8 times. GC:

 - Held exceptionally productive, informal consultation with GC's ex-officio member and consultants, as well as the administrative partners across the campus (EVC/Provost, School Deans, Extension Director, Director of TPP).
 - Collaborated with UGC and consulted Graduate and Undergraduate Deans on revising the Emergency Course Continuity Policy, and on planning spring instruction delivery. These conversations continue but have reached a point that the chair feels confident about spring instruction delivery.
 - Consulted with the administration and with the Senate leadership on academic planning, particularly graduate student enrollment management for next AY, and produced and distributed an FAQ document in collaboration with the Interim Graduate Dean and the Associate Provost of Academic Planning and Budget.
 - Proposed revisions to GC Bylaws per DivCo's Anti-Racism Action Plan, and participated in DivCo and campus-wide anti-racism workgroups.
 - Was represented in the undocumented student services workgroup and in the joint Senate/administration workgroup on Faculty-Graduate Student Conflict Resolution Infrastructure.
 - Consulted, and will continue to consult, with Professor Sarah Kurtz about a proposal to establish a 4+1 (BS+MS) program at UC Merced and the approval process for such a program. Currently there are no guidelines or established process for approval of these programs. GC has worked closely with UGC and AFAC and hopes to have the process in place to move forward the proposal next semester.
 - Submitted a proposal to CRE, requesting an amendment to divisional Regulations so that Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) researchers may chair graduate student committees, which is a request presented to GC by a number of colleagues.
 - Reviewed Campus Policy on Extension Non-Degree Program Approval and will have further discussion with the Extension in Spring 2021 and will continue to engage with the TPP program.
 - Consulted Interim Graduate Dean on graduate student fellowships and the review process, and proposed changes, including pooling existing smaller fellowships to create summer full fellowships.

- The GC chair thanked the committee analyst for her work.
- Library and Scholarly Communication (LASC):
 - LASC has been monitoring some important issues this semester.
 - First, LASC has been very concerned about access to library materials. The UC Merced Library initiated curb-side pickup and mailing some library materials. The HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access has provided the ability to read books that have been digitally scanned that are owned by UC campus libraries.
 - Second, LASC has been worried about the UC Merced Library budget, since the Library is essential to the university's mission of research, teaching, and service.
 - Third, we have kept our eyes on the Elsevier negotiations. In July UCOLASC and CoUL endorsed a return to the negotiating table. We understand that the UC negotiating team is hopeful that a deal with Elsevier may be completed by the end of the year or shortly thereafter.
 - One of LASC's main items of business this semester was the review of the Gallo School of Management pre-proposal. The memo that LASC transmitted to the Senate Chair included data analysis from Library staff on the Library's budget and resources within the context of the UC Merced budget, FTE, and student population.
 - In response to the Senate Chair's request to all Senate committees, LASC reviewed its bylaws through the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion. LASC advocated for a general, Senate-level statement on diversity. However, if such a statement is not adopted, LASC also agreed to modify its bylaws.
 - Lastly, the LASC Chair attended a Division Council meeting this semester to update the Council on LASC activities.
 - The LASC chair thanked the committee analysts for their work.
- Undergraduate Council (UGC):
 - This has been a very busy semester for the Undergraduate Council. UGC convened six times to conduct business with respect to its Bylaw as outlined in the Merced Division Bylaws and addressed some items via email. The Undergraduate Council is empowered to a) establish policies for undergraduate education and b) approve the establishment, discontinuation or modification of undergraduate programs and courses.
 - Members of UGC also serve on various campus and systemwide senate and senate/administrative committees or workgroups/task forces.
 - Periodic Review Oversight Committee – Chih-Chun Chien
 - Support Services for Undocumented Students Work Group – Alejandro Gutierrez
 - Remote Instruction Excellence Award – Alejandro Gutierrez and Jason Lee
 - Instructional Sustainability Task Force – Eileen Camfield
 - Work group to Support Undocumented Students – Alejandro Gutierrez

- University Committee on Preparatory Education – Eileen Camfield
- University Committee on International Education – Michelle Leslie
- University Committee on Educational Policy – Matt Hibbing
- Consultation with VPDUE
 - UGC received regular updates from VPDUE Frey on various items that related to UGC's work. These include:
 - Chegg cheating prevention efforts
 - Campus undergraduate required laptop policy
 - Assessment results for the student experience this semester
 - Transfer initiatives
 - Course Evaluation Data for COVID Student Experience Assessment Proposal
 - P/NP Flexibility
 - Summer 2021 Instructional Modality – The Instructional Sustainability Implementation task force would like to recommend that we allow department/instructor driven instructional modality determinations for Summer 2021 and plan for socially distanced classroom utilization for in-person offerings. Seeking UGC input on this approach. There were no objections to this proposal at the Dec 14 UGC meeting
- Educational Continuity:
 - All UGC and Senate committee actions on the Emergency Course Continuity policy are available on the Senate website: <https://senate.ucmerced.edu/educational-continuity> and shared with the campus community via the monthly Senate Newsletter and the weekly Senate Digest. UGC approved revisions to the Emergency Course Continuity policy on September 28 (in response to VPDUE Frey's proposal for Hyflex courses) and recently, on December 14, 2020, to include a blurb related to Academic Misconduct.
- Review Items:
 - UGC offered comments on - and as relevant, its endorsements of the following campus and systemwide review items:
 - Five Year Planning Perspectives
 - SNS Proposal to change the name of the Chemistry and Chemical Biology Department to Chemistry and Biochemistry
 - Pre-proposal for a Gallo School of Management
 - Revised World Heritage Minor
 - UCEP's Proposed Revisions to systemwide Senate Regulation 630 (Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree)
 - Proposed revisions to systemwide Senate Regulation 544 (Registration).
 - Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force Report
 - Revised supplementary questionnaire for online/hybrid/hyflex courses
 - Petitions to appoint graduate students as instructors of record
 - 55 course request forms
 - Revised policy for reviewing/approving courses (approved Dec 14)

VI. Anti-Racism Divisional Council Work Group

Chair DeLugan explained that last spring, in response to the national reckoning related to anti-black racism, then-Senate Chair Hansford charged the Senate to identify barriers to diversity, equity, and inclusion and recommend ways to eliminate them. The Senate and the administration empaneled the Valuing Black Lives Task Force. Divisional Council formulated an anti-racism work group that drafted a Senate action plan. The Senate sees these activities as ongoing work. By spring 2021, we hope to share with faculty some recommendations and initiatives. Chair DeLugan was pleased with the recommendations she received from Senate committees on proposed revisions to their bylaws or statements of support of expanding diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Chair DeLugan asked if attendees had questions on any topic raised in today's meeting. She mentioned that the systemwide Senate is having conversations about potential fully online UC degrees and debate is centering around the question of what is a UC quality education. The systemwide Senate and Merced Division are also grappling with our COVID-19 experiences – what has worked, what has not worked, and how our experiences this year can inform future conversations.

A faculty member asked about the status of extension requests for Senate grants awarded in the last academic year. EVC/Provost Camfield stated that he will extend the deadline. The CoR chair pointed out that CoR was recently informed by the EVC/Provost's office that unspent funds get swept each year. As a result, CoR is currently discussing how to accommodate faculty who requested an extension as the committee does not want faculty to lose out on their awarded funds. EVC/Provost Camfield stated that he will speak to his staff and will get back to faculty with the answer.

Chair DeLugan ended the meeting by encouraging faculty to serve in the Senate and vote in the upcoming Senate elections for the positions of CoC members and Divisional Council At-Large members. She thanked faculty for their hard work during these extraordinary times and thanked the Division members for attending today's meeting.

VII. Petitions of Students
No petitions were presented

VIII. New Business
No new business was raised

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.
Attest: Robin DeLugan, Senate Chair