



# Academic Senate

June 2020 Newsletter | [senate.ucmerced.edu](https://senate.ucmerced.edu)

## Division News:

**From the Senate Chair:** As we approach summer, I write with the final newsletter of the academic year. I hope everyone continues to stay healthy and safe during these challenging times.

On May 20, 2020 the UC Board of Regents approved the appointment of Dr. Juan Sánchez Muñoz as UC Merced's fourth Chancellor. Muñoz comes to the UC from the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD), where he has served as president since 2017. We are looking forward

to welcoming him as he assumes his role in early July. President Napolitano's announcement may be found [here](#), and Chancellor-Designate Munoz's message may be found [here](#).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent high school closures, the May 9th administration of the UC Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) was cancelled. From the time that decision was made, UCOPE, the AWPE Chair, and program staff at UCOP have been working to arrange for a systemwide online administration of the AWPE, which will take place on Saturday, June 20th.

On June 1, the Academic Council unanimously endorsed a [letter](#) from the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) requesting that the normative time-to-degree and funding limits outlined in APM 420-17 (for Readers, TA-ships, and Fellowships) be temporarily extended due to the COVID-19 crisis. Academic Council also endorsed the [letter](#) from the University Committee on Preparation Education (UCOPE) requesting a one-time waiver of [Senate Regulation 636.C](#) for the 2020-2021 academic year due to ongoing COVID-19 disruptions. SR 636.C outlines ways that a student may satisfy the UC Entry Level Writing Requirement, including by passing the UC Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE).

The UC Merced Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities invite all faculty members to participate in the Faculty Listening Tour. Sessions are open to school Deans, department chairs, instructional faculty, lecturers, researchers, teaching assistants and graduate students. Feedback from the sessions will be used to enhance faculty resources that support student well-being and classroom management. Session information and registration may be found [here](#) and is provided below.

Session Information and registration:

Faculty Listening Tour #1

Monday, June 8th, 11:00am – 2:00pm <http://tinyurl.com/FacultyTour01>

Faculty Listening Tour #2

Thursday, June 18th, 3:00pm – 4:00pm <http://tinyurl.com/FacultyTour02>

Faculty Listening Tour #3

Wednesday, June 24th, 9:00am - 10:00am – <http://tinyurl.com/FacultyTour03>

On May 26, the Graduate Division and the Graduate Council issued a joint [memo](#) discussing the policies that have been put in place to accommodate graduate students with their various and pressing needs, with regards to program requirements.

The [Revised Policy and Procedures for the Establishment, Review and Closure of Organized](#)

[Research Units](#) went into effect on June 1, 2020.

VCORED Sam Traina and VPDGE (and future interim VCORED) Marjorie Zatz will host a “Research Relaunch” webinar on Friday, June 5 at 11:00am. Please see the campus [announcement](#).

Lastly, I am delighted to announce that Fatima Paul has been appointed as Executive Director of the Senate!

-Tom Hansford

## **Committee Highlights**

[The Committee on Academic Personnel](#) (CAP) continues to conduct business as usual. The committee's last meeting of the academic year is June 19.

[The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA) regularly consults with the EVC/Provost on budgetary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee recently consulted with both the EVC/Provost and the APAPB on proposed changes to the timeline for phase II of academic planning. The committee will continue having email discussions as necessary over the summer on pandemic-related budget issues.

[The Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#) (FWAF) chair hosted a virtual support group for a small group of faculty and staff who are parents, where participants discussed the challenge of balancing childcare and remote work and offered support to each other. Faculty co-working space survey results, indicating a strong support for co-working space, were presented at the Divisional Council on May 13, 2020, and FWAF is drafting a proposal which, upon Divisional Council's endorsement, will be sent to the campus leadership.

[The Committee on Research](#) (COR) submitted the final ORU policy to Division Council and the Council endorsed. The ORU policy was widely disseminated to the campus by the Senate office and is available on the Senate website. The committee will meet via Zoom twice over the summer to consult with VCORED Traina and VPDGE (and future Interim VCORED) Zatz on the efforts to relaunch campus research activities.

[The Graduate Council](#) (GC) issued a joint memo with the Graduate Division to Graduate Group Chairs, summarizing the emergency policies and requesting close communication with group

members and students. GC consulted with Becky Mirza, Assistant Director for International Students and Scholars, on international student admissions and enrollments in AY 2020-21, and with Laura Martin, Accreditation Liaison Officer, on the potential hybrid instruction in Fall 2020 and its implications for WSCUC accreditation. GC approved revisions to graduate course request and approval policy, incorporating the changes proposed by the CRF Policy Workgroup.

[The Committee on Rules and Elections](#) (CRE) issued a second ballot for the election of CoC and DivCo At-Large members. If you have not already done so, please submit your ballot by June 5, 2020.

[The Committee on Diversity and Equity](#) (D&E) last met on May 4, 2020. D&E expressed concerns about students who are facing hardships due to lack of access to the internet and/or computers. More recently, per the Senate Chair's request, D&E led a survey of department chairs, school deans, and FEAs, about the use and effectiveness of DEI statements in faculty searches and in improving campus climate, in preparation for the Divisional Council to draft a campus response to the Academic Council's request for information.

[The Committee on Committees](#) (CoC) will convene in mid-June to finalize a few pending appointments.

[The Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications](#) (LASC) Chair DePrano met with GC, UGC, and CAPRA chairs to further discuss consultation with the Library during the preparation of new program proposals. LASC also sent a memo to Kevin Dawson, chair of the Interdisciplinary Humanities Graduate Group, in response to his request for input regarding concerns related to student and faculty access to physical ILL and Library Book Collection.

[The Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) is conducting business via email and has recently provided comments to the Registrar on the American History and Institutions requirement. Council has also opined on the proposals put forth by the CRF WorkGroup co-chaired by the UGC and GC Chairs. The proposal aims at simplifying the level of effort and time faculty and staff devote to developing, submitting, and approving new or revised CRFs. UGC also endorsed a proposal for auto-populating CatCourses. These efforts were coordinated with the Graduate Council and key campus constituents.

[Divisional Council](#) (DivCo) discussed a proposal put forth by FWAF for co-working space for faculty partners. FWAF is currently updating the proposal for consideration by the senate and administrative leaderships. DivCo also discussed the UGC proposal for a RRR week and reviewed a draft charge for a Medical Education Advisory Committee.

**June  
Meeting  
Schedules**

**DIVCO - JUN 3  
CAP - JUN 5, 12, 19**

---

**ASSEMBLY - JUN 10  
COUNCIL - JUN 24  
BOARS - JUN 5  
CCGA - JUN 3  
UCEP - JUN 1  
UCFW - JUN 12  
UCOPE - JUN 19  
UCORP - JUN 8  
UCPB - JUN 2**

**Contact the Chair**

Questions, concerns, or issues you would like to see addressed? Contact Senate Chair Hansford at [senatechair@ucmerced.edu](mailto: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.



---

*Copyright © 2020 The University of California, Merced - Academic Senate, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

**Our mailing address is:**

The University of California, Merced - Academic Senate  
5200 N Lake Rd  
Merced, CA 95343-5001

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

