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Merced Academic Senate



March 2021 Issue

<https://senate.ucmerced.edu>

Senate Monthly Publication

Division News

From the Senate Chair:

As we approach the one-year mark of the adjustments forced upon university life by COVID-19, I wish you well and hold onto the promise of a return in the Fall to on-campus life.

The Call for Senate Awards Nominations for AY 20-21 was distributed to Faculty on January 25, 2021. The deadline to nominate your colleagues is March 9, 2021. Information related to the Calls for the Senate Awards is available [here](#).

The Undergraduate Council approved extending the P/NP amendment to the Emergency Course Continuity Policy to apply to Spring 2021. Please see [report](#) on P/NP Enrollments provided by VPDUE Frey and discussed with members of UGC on February 8.

CoR received 58 proposals for this year's Senate faculty grants program. Of these, the committee funded 26 proposals: 9 from SNS, 6 from SoE, and 11 from SSHA. The list of this year's grant recipients is available on the Senate website [here](#).

The Assembly of the Academic Senate has approved amendments to Systemwide Senate Bylaw 336.F.8. calling for the use of the "preponderance of evidence" standard in P&T hearings for cases of alleged violation of the University's Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment (SVSH). The motion to approve the amendments passed in a vote of 53 in favor and 1 opposed, with one abstention. Please see [Systemwide Senate Chair Gauvain's memo to President Drake](#).

MARCH MEETING SCHEDULES

Merced Division

DIVCO – MAR 12, 29
AFAC – MAR 12
CAP – MAR 5, 12, 19, 26
CAPRA – MAR 8, 29
COC – MAR 4
CoR – MAR 11
CRE – MAR 16
D&E – MAR 15
FWAF – MAR 10, 31
GC – MAR 4, 18
UGC – MAR 15

Systemwide

BOARS – MAR 5
EDIT – MAR 19
UCAF – MAR 4
UCAP – MAR 10
CCGA – MAR 3
UCEP – MAR 1
UCIE – MAR 19
COUNCIL – MAR 31
UCFW – MAR 12
UCPB – MAR 2
UCORP – MAR 8

Committee Highlights

[The Admissions and Financial Aid Committee](#) (AFAC) Due to an exceptionally high volume of students qualified for Admission by Exception (981), the Office of Admissions has proposed a change to the process by which decisions are reviewed by faculty. The alternative process meets the BOARS guidelines. AFAC approved the revised process on 2/12 It will be implemented for the Fall 2021 cycle.

[The Committee on Academic Personnel](#) (CAP) continues to conduct its usual business of case review.

[The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA) continues to consult with the EVC/Provost and Interim CFO on phase III of academic planning and issues surrounding strategic planning. CAPRA is reviewing several campus and systemwide review items.

[The Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#) (FWAF) consulted with Interim CFO on ECEC finances, and on procurement support impacted by the new financial platform. FWAF discussed faculty-graduate student conflict resolution infrastructure and the proposal to add a Teaching Professor to CAP, and opined on the proposed new presidential policy on UC research data and tangible research materials.

[The Committee on Research](#) (COR) reviewed proposals for the Senate faculty grants program and selected awardees, jointly reviewed the conceptualization grant proposals with the Interim VCORED, and is working with the Interim VCORED on the Call for Instrumentation grant proposals. CoR is also reviewing several campus and systemwide review items.

[The Graduate Council](#) (GC) completed its preliminary review of the Master of Data Science and Analytics Program proposal; and discussed graduate student training in teaching and grant-writing; plans for the development of conflict resolution infrastructure; Graduate Recruitment Fellowships; and 4+1 program policy and proposal format.

[The Committee on Rules and Elections](#) (CRE) finalized its work on revisions to the UCM Bylaws. Prior to distribution of the revised Bylaws to campus stakeholders, it is anticipated that the Bylaws will be presented at the March 12 DivCo meeting.

[The Committee for Diversity and Equity](#) (D&E) discussed, and is preparing revisions to, the proposed preamble to the Senate Bylaws. It also discussed the consideration of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work in promotion, and consulted the WASC liaison officer on its recent report on key indicators for success in undergraduate education.

[The Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) approved 12 requests for new/revised courses and a proposal from VPDUE Frey requesting a campus wide exception to the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR). UGC responded to GC's request for review of policies related to CatCourses auto-population.

[Library and Scholarly Communication](#) (LASC) met on February 10 and heard an update from the University Librarian on the library budget and Elsevier negotiations. LASC is drafting a memo to the Senate Chair about library consultation in the process for the review of new academic programs.

[Divisional Council](#) (DivCo) sent its comments to the Systemwide Senate Chair on the proposed Presidential Policy, Business and Finance Bulletin, IS-12-IT Recovery; the Faculty Salary Scales report; and the Report of the Innovative Learning Technology Initiatives.