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Merced Academic Senate

May 2018 Issue

<http://senate.ucmerced.edu>

Senate Monthly Publication

Division News

From the Senate Chair: Welcome to the final Senate newsletter of the academic year! If your semester is concluding anything like mine there is barely a moment to breathe among all the initiatives coming to a close and the general wrap up of yet another academic year.

Support for our undocumented students has been a high priority for our faculty. Toward that end, at the April 16 Meeting of the Division, [a resolution was passed](#) to improve conditions for our undocumented students. The resolution, which calls for an annual reporting process to examine the resources for and welfare of UC Merced's undocumented students, will broaden faculty engagement in the campus's efforts to support our students' success.

We are, we hope, also nearing the end of setting up the new General Education program as a functioning entity out of day to day Senate management. With that in mind, we are hosting Town Halls on the proposed Bylaws for the General Education program. The second Town Hall takes place this Monday, May 7, from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. in COB 2 – 290. [Information has been circulated](#) explaining the importance of the faculty adopting a governance structure for this first ever campus-wide program. I hope you will take a moment to join us on Monday. Your thoughts matter.

Finally, the Senate has been engaged in advocacy. We have written to Governor Brown urging the appointment of a Regent from the San Joaquin Valley to the UC Board of Regents. And, as part of a coordinated systemwide effort, we are writing to our State Assembly and Senate representatives encouraging their support for the UC as the state budgeting process proceeds.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Division these past two years. Having worked closely with Kurt Schnier over the past two years, I know the Senate is in good hands. I hope you have productive and restorative summer breaks!

- Susan Amussen

MAY MEETING SCHEDULES

Merced Division

Divisional Council – May 8

CAP – May 4, 11, 18, 25

CAPRA – May 3, 17

COR – May 1, 15

GC – May 4

UGC – May 14

AFAS – May 7

GESC – May 7

Systemwide

Academic Council – May 30

CONTACT THE CHAIR

Questions, concerns, or issues you would like to see addressed? Contact Senate Chair Amussen at senatechair@ucmerced.edu



Committee Highlights

[The Committee on Academic Personnel](#) (CAP) has been conducting business as usual.

[The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA) consulted with the Provost/EVC on the systemwide proposal to raise faculty salary scales.

[The Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#) (FWAF) provided input to the administration on the proposed duties of the Chief Diversity Officer.

[The Committee on Research](#) (COR) is finalizing its policy for the establishment and review of Core Facilities.

[Graduate Council](#) (GC) is reviewing two CCGA proposals for new graduate programs, as well as its policy for approving new courses.

[The Committee on Rules and Elections](#) (CRE) is revising its *UC Merced Voting Policies in Academic Personnel Cases* document in response to feedback from Senate committees.

[The Committee on Diversity and Equity](#) (D&E) has begun its review of the nominees for the AY 2018-20 Faculty Equity Advisors (FEAs). D&E is working to incorporate best-practice guidelines for diversity planning into the Graduate and Undergraduate Program Review Policy and Procedures.

[The Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications](#) (LASC) continues to engage with the Library in relation to 2020 planning.

[The Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) has commented on proposals for GE Bylaws, the CSE Bylaw unit, and the HWC reconstitution. It has also approved the GE and ENGR Catalog sections, several CRFs, and proposals for Spark seminars. The Council continues to support undocumented students.

[Divisional Council](#) (DivCo) has adopted a [Conflict of Interest Policy](#). It has also commented on the *Proposal for Academic Reorganization* developed by the Academic Restructuring Work Group as well as on a proposed endowed chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies.