

CoC:

Mayra Bamaca (SSHA, Psychological Sciences)

Mayra Bamaca received her PhD in Family Studies and Human Development from Arizona State University. Soon after, she joined the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the Pennsylvania State University where she earned tenure in 2016. In 2020, she joined UC Merced as an Associate Professor in Psychological Sciences. Her research centers on the experiences of Latino youth and families and the cultural and contextual factors that contribute to their psychological and behavioral adaptation. She enjoys working with graduate and undergraduate students and promoting their engagement in educational settings and hopes to contribute to the growth of UC Merced.

Catherine Keske (SoE, Materials Science and Engineering)

Catherine Keske has held a number of UCM leadership roles, which would provide useful experience to inform CoC decisions. In her service roles, Catherine is known for being approachable and for being a good listener who takes to heart suggestions made by colleagues. Catherine most recently served as Senate Vice Chair, and she has twice served as Undergraduate Council Vice Chair. As Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) representative to the UC System BOARS Committee and Chair of the Admissions and Financial Aid Subcommittee (AFAS), she was actively engaged in developing AFAS into AFAC, a standalone UCM Senate Committee. Catherine has also served on CAPRA, and twice served on PROC. Catherine has twice served as the School of Engineering Executive Committee Chair.

Roummel Marcia (NS, Applied Mathematics)

Roummel Marcia is a Professor of Applied Mathematics. He has been at UC Merced since 2009. He was the Director of the NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates Program in Applied Mathematics at UC Merced from 2014-2016 and is currently a Co-PI on the NSF Data Intensive Research and Computing Program on campus. He served as Chair of the Applied Mathematics Graduate Program from 2019-23. He has served as the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Research and as a member of the Periodic Review Oversight Committee. He has been on the Committee on Committees since August, 2022. His research focuses on data science, signal processing, machine learning, mathematical biology, and optimization.

Victor Muñoz (SoE, Bioengineering)

Victor Muñoz received his B.S. in Biochemistry (1991) from the Autonomous University of Madrid. He carried out his Ph.D. (1995) at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) and his postdoctoral training at the US National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. He previously held positions as Assistant and Associate Professor at the University of Maryland (2001-2007), and as Research Professor at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) from 2007 to 2014. He was elected member of the European Molecular Biology Organization in 2009. He has been at UC Merced since 2014 as Professor of Bioengineering, and has been Co-Director of the NSF Center for Cellular and Biomolecular Machines (CCBM) since 2016. He currently is a member (core or affiliate) of four graduate programs: Bioengineering, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Quantitative System Biology, and Physics as well as of the Health Sciences Research Institute (HSRI). As CCBM Co-Director and active member of 4 graduate programs and HSRI he has had over his 10 years at UC Merced a unique opportunity to directly interact and/or collaborate with a large number of faculty from many different academic areas. Such transversal experience makes him very well qualified to become a member of the Committee on Committees.

Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez (SSHA, Economics and Business Management)

Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez is an Associate Teaching Professor (LPSOE) of Economics, and EBM Undergraduate Chair, at the University of California Merced. He earned a PhD in International Economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz. His teaching experience includes Econometrics, Corporate Finance, Introduction to Business and Finance, The Economics of Emerging Markets, Statistical Inference, International Macroeconomics/Finance, Introductory Finance, Economic Development, International Microeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Latin American Economies, The Economics of Globalization, Economics and Management of Technology and Innovation, Personal Finance, and Introductory courses in Micro and Macroeconomics. His research interest includes, corruption, FDI, and the Mexican Economy. He has provided University Service as a member of Undergraduate Council, Subcommittee on Admissions and Financial Aid, EDI, and Chair of the EDI multiple times.

DivCo At-Large:

Sarah Depaoli (SSHA, Psychological Sciences)

Sarah Depaoli is a Professor and the Chair of Psychological Sciences and joined UC Merced in 2011. She specializes in the development and assessment of statistical tools within the social and behavioral sciences. Her expertise lies in latent variable and mixture models, with a strong emphasis on Bayesian estimation methods for these models. Her line of research lead toward authoring a recent book "Bayesian Structural Equation Modeling." In addition to her scholarly contributions, she has been involved in university governance, actively participating in Senate committee work. Her recent Senate roles include serving on Graduate Council, Committee on Committees, and Divisional Council (as CoC chair). She is committed to advancing academic excellence and institutional development at UC Merced.

Rowena Gray (SSHA, Economics and Business Management)

Rowena Gray is an economic historian who has worked at UC Merced since 2015, tenured since 2021. Her research is in the areas of labor market inequality, technological change, and U.S. urban history including topics of immigration, crime, policing and housing. Her first book with Columbia University Press, "Rent and the City", will appear in 2025. She has provided extensive service at UC Merced, for example as chair of the Economics Graduate Group, member of UGC, and member of CACSW.

Matthew Hibbing (SSHA, Political Science)

Matt Hibbing is an Associate Professor of Political Science. He studies American politics with a focus on political behavior, political psychology and the influence of biology on mass politics. His research centers on individual level predispositions that shape political attitudes and behaviors, including personality and physiological traits. Professor Hibbing's current work examines how Americans understand the views of their political opponents. Hibbing's work has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as Science, the American Political Science Review, the Journal of Politics, the British Journal of Political Science, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Political Behavior, and Political Psychology.

[Shilpa Khatri](#) (NS, Applied Mathematics)

Shilpa Khatri received her Ph.D. in 2009 from the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences (NYU). After a postdoc in the Department of Mathematics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she joined the faculty in Applied Mathematics at UC Merced in 2014. The focus of her research is fluid dynamics arising in the context of marine phenomena. She designs numerical methods for mathematical models that she develops and analyzes while comparing with experimental data. At UC Merced, recent service contributions include serving as DivCo At-Large Member from 2022-2024 and is currently co-chair of the Financial Management and Reporting Task Force, a joint task force between the administration and Senate. She has also served as Vice Chair of the Applied Mathematics graduate group, as co-chair of the SNS JEDI Taskforce, and served on the Senate Faculty Committee on Research.