



Contact Us:
senateoffice@ucmerced.edu

Merced Academic Senate

October 2018 Issue

<http://senate.ucmerced.edu>

Senate Monthly Publication

Division News

From the Senate Chair: Welcome to the first Senate newsletter of the academic year! As you can see from the committee highlights below, regular committee meetings are now well underway.

Goals are being established within committees and, at the level of Divisional Council (DivCo), these include further strengthening the Senate's working relationship with the administration. In August, the second annual Shared Governance Retreat, an event involving Divisional Council and campus administrative leadership, was held. Outcomes included a draft set of principles to guide the implementation of shared governance. To facilitate ongoing information flow, Interim Provost/EVC Gregg Camfield is also regularly attending the start of each DivCo meeting. Reciprocally, I am joining the opening minutes of Deans' Council.

As mentioned in my [Welcome Letter](#), the academic planning and budget working groups are resuming work this year. Each is being staffed with representatives from relevant Senate committees, with an eye toward school representation. The work of academic restructuring also continues under the guidance of the transition work group headed by Dean Dumont. Although no longer a joint Senate-administration endeavor, the Senate hopes to keep tabs on the campus's progress in this important matter.

The Senate is also anticipating its bigger events this fall. These include the annual fall Meeting of the Division, scheduled for Tuesday, December 4, at which all faculty are welcome. On Monday, November 26, the Division will also host a visit from the systemwide Academic Senate Chair and Vice Chair, Robert May and Kum-Kum Bhavnani, respectively. If you are interested in meeting with them, please let me know by October 19 at Senatechair@ucmerced.edu.

Finally, the Senate Office has just relocated back to the third floor of Kolligian Library. They can be found in KL 323, the former space of the Academic Personnel Office. - Kurt Schnier

MAY MEETING SCHEDULES

Merced Division

Divisional Council – Oct 9, 25

CAP – Oct 12, 19, 26

CAPRA – Oct 4, 18

COR – Oct 10, 24

CRE – Oct 8

COC – Oct 22

GC – Oct 2, 18, 30

LASC – Oct 4

UGC – Oct 11, 25

AFAS – Oct 7

CONTACT THE CHAIR

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



Committee Highlights

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

[The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA) is conducting an analysis of historical FTE allocation in anticipation of ongoing academic planning and the next FTE allocation cycle.

[The Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#) (FWAF) is working with the administration on solutions to after-school, holiday, and summer child care needs.

[The Committee on Research](#) (COR) is revising the 2014 Senate policy on research units to expand the procedures on the establishment, disestablishment, and review of organized research units (ORUs).

[Graduate Council](#) (GC) is discussing with graduate group chairs the unit requirements for thesis and non-thesis master's degrees. GC also anticipates revising several policies this year.

[The Committee on Rules and Elections](#) (CRE) has reviewed and commented on a number of campus review items, including proposed revisions to the bylaws of the Library and Scholarly Communications Committee.

[The Committee on Diversity and Equity](#) (D&E) is working on issues related to faculty retention and diversity in faculty hiring.

[The Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications](#) (LASC) will hold its first meeting in October.

[The Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) has proposed revisions to the policy for posthumous degrees and has recommended closure of the Earth System Science program review. UGC has also approved 28 new courses for spring 2019.

[Divisional Council](#) (DivCo) endorsed for campus review proposed revisions to the bylaws of the Library and Scholarly Communications Committee and a proposed set of principles to guide the conduct of executive session. In light of the Gallo school initiative, the committee also recommended a campus policy be developed to guide the establishment of a new school.