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Merced Academic Senate

October 2019 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 in past years, you can anticipate receiving this newsletter on the first Friday of the month October through June.

We are now well into the academic year. Committees have articulated goals and one of the ongoing priorities for the Senate is to continue to strengthen shared governance. Toward that end, in August the Senate and administration held the third annual Shared Governance Retreat. Attended by the members of Divisional Council, the school executive committee chairs, and the campus's senior administrative leadership, outcomes included refinement of principles developed last year to guide engagement in shared governance, discussion of decision making on campus, and some preliminary planning for initiatives that will necessitate Senate-administration collaboration. The refined principles for shared governance will be posted on the Senate website for reference by the campus community.

To facilitate ongoing information flow, the Senate and administration are also continuing practices established last year. EVC/Provost Camfield is attending the start of each Divisional Council meeting. Reciprocally, I am joining the opening minutes of Deans' Council meetings. Vice Chair Robin DeLugan and I are also meeting regularly with EVC/Provost Camfield and Interim Chancellor Brostrom.

The Senate is actively involved in the search for the new Chancellor. On Campus Day, Divisional Council met with the Chancellor's Search Advisory Committee to share its priorities and answer questions. Three UCM Senate faculty are also on the search committee, including me.

Looking forward, the Senate will be holding its annual fall Meeting of the Division on Thursday, December 12, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in KL 232. As always a reception will follow. All Senate members are welcome and I encourage you to put this on your calendars. The Division will also be hosting a visit from systemwide Academic Senate Chair and Vice Chair, [Kum-Kum Bhavnani](#) and [Mary Gauvain](#), respectively. The exact date is to be determined. We will keep you apprised. - Tom Hansford

OCTOBER MEETING SCHEDULES

Merced Division

- Divisional Council – Oct 2, 16
- CAP – Oct 4, 11, 19, 25
- CAPRA – Oct 10, 24
- COR – Oct 8, 22
- CRE – Oct 30
- COC – Oct 10
- GC – Oct 9, 23
- LASC – Oct 2
- UGC – Oct 1, 15
- AFAS – Oct 28

CONTACT THE CHAIR

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



Committee Highlights

[The Committee on Academic Personnel](#) (CAP) encourages Senate faculty attendance at the VPF's annual forum for academic review on October 9.

[The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA) is consulting with the EVC/Provost and Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Budget on the process and timeline for academic planning.

[The Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#) (FWAF) continues to address equity for Teaching Professors and recently consulted with the Associate Vice Provost for Faculty on her various campus initiatives.

[The Committee on Research](#) (COR) is engaged in the Sponsored Projects Redesign Initiative via updates from committee members who serve on the Initiative's Advisory Board and as a Subject Matter Expert with redesign team consultants.

[Graduate Council](#) (GC) has simplified the funding eligibility requirements for academic appointments (TAs, GSRs, Readers, and Tutors) outlined in the Graduate Policies and Procedures Handbook.

[The Committee on Rules and Elections](#) (CRE) has revised its conflict of interest policy and is currently reviewing several campus items, including the proposal for permanent GE Bylaws and revised Bylaws for the Sociology Department and for the Library and Scholarly Communications Committee.

[The Committee on Diversity and Equity](#) (D&E) is discussing best practices for conducting faculty searches and how to empower FEAs. D&E has endorsed the appointments of three FEAs and the proposed amendments to APM 230. The committee has also revised the Call for the Senate Award for Contributions to Diversity.

[The Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) has approved a petition for an exception to the Entry Level Writing Requirement, several course requests, the Chemistry and Chemical Biology Department request to change the name of the Chemical Sciences program to Chemistry. UGC also opined on a proposed Academic Honesty policy for the CSE Department and on the CIS proposal for a Master's Degree.

[Divisional Council](#) (DivCo) has consulted with the Vice Chancellor for Research, Sam Traina, regarding the Sponsored Projects Redesign Initiative and the new Chief Human Resources Officer and Assistant Vice Chancellor, Nicole Pollack, regarding staff-related concerns and needs.