

**RESERVE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PERSONNEL  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2023-2024**

**TO THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:**

The Reserve Committee on Academic Personnel (RCAP) is pleased to report on its activities for the academic year 2023-2024.

**I. RCAP Membership**

This year's RCAP members were Anne Kelley, Chair (School of Natural Sciences), Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes (School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts), Stefano Carpin (School of Engineering), Nella Van Dyke (School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts), and Lin Tian (School of Natural Sciences).

The RCAP analyst was Simrin Takhar.

**II. RCAP Review of Academic Personnel Cases**

RCAP is charged with reviewing personnel files of current CAP members, or those who termed off the committee in the preceding academic year, and appeals by faculty members.

**Policies and Procedures**

RCAP adheres to systemwide policies and procedures as described in the UC Academic Personnel Manual ([APM](#)). Policies and procedures not outlined in the APM, but practiced at other UC campuses, were generally observed at Merced.

The Merced Academic Personnel Policies & Procedures ([MAPP](#)) document is also a useful resource for faculty members, administrators and department chairs.

**Review Process**

RCAP's review process begins when the committee receives files from the Academic Personnel Office (APO), where they have been analyzed, vetted, and classified to facilitate further, efficient processing. The cases, as well as reviewer assignments, are distributed to the committee one week prior to RCAP's meeting and ensuing discussion of the files. One lead reviewer and one secondary reviewer are assigned to report on each case; however, all members are expected to read and discuss the files. Reviewer assignments are made according to members' areas of expertise. Reviewers serve not as advocates of their areas, but as representatives who act in the best long-term interests of the campus. Committee members who participate in a prior level of review for a file are recused from RCAP's respective review of the file.

If the RCAP lacks sufficient expertise in the faculty member's research area, the bylaws allow for the committee membership to temporarily expand to include external (UC) experts. This occurred in the review of the cases in AY 23-24.

Reports from the primary and secondary readers on cases are followed by a thorough committee discussion, all members are asked to give an opinion, as well as a vote on the proposed action. RCAP's quorum for all personnel actions is half plus one of its membership. After the meeting,

the RCAP analyst prepares draft reports on the dossiers. These reports are then distributed to the committee for review, consultation, and approval. The final version of the report is sent as a letter to the Executive Vice Chancellor/Provost (EVC/Provost), Vice Provost for Academic Personnel (VPAP), and APO. After the meeting, the RCAP chair meets with the EVC/Provost and VPAP to discuss the case. Decisions on actions are made by the EVC/Provost or the VPAP; RCAP only makes recommendations. If the EVC/Provost or VPAP determines that no further deliberation is necessary, RCAP's report is transmitted to the candidate's department.

For the vast majority of the cases, the above process ends RCAP's review of the file. The EVC/Provost or VPAP communicates with RCAP to discuss any disagreements with RCAP's recommendation on particular cases. This academic year, the EVC/Provost and VPAP agreed with all of RCAP's recommendations.

### **Recommendations**

Appendix A provides a simple numerical summary and analysis of the RCAP caseload for the 2023-2024 academic year. RCAP reviewed 4 cases this year.

Tables 1A-1B detail 2023-2024 caseload and outcome according to the proposed personnel action. Table 2 provides aggregate recommendation by the schools. Table 3 provides a historical summary of RCAP cases.

Respectfully,

Anne Kelley, Chair (SNS)  
Stefano Carpin (SOE)  
Nella Van Dyke (SSHA)  
Lin Tian (SNS)  
Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes (SSHA)

**APPENDIX A**

**2023-2024 RESERVE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PERSONNEL  
TABLES 1-3 FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS BY ACTION TYPE**

	<b>RCAP Recommendation</b>				<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Modification</b>	<b>Disagreed</b>	<b>Pending</b>	
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL CASES</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>TABLE 1A ADVANCEMENTS</b>	<b>RCAP Recommendation</b>				<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Modification</b>	<b>Disagreed</b>	<b>Pending</b>	
Professor	2	0	1	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
% RCAP Agreed with Proposal					<b>67</b>
% RCAP Agreed or Modified Proposal					<b>67</b>

<b>TABLE 1B PROMOTIONS</b>	<b>RCAP Recommendation</b>				<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>Agreed</b>	<b>Modification</b>	<b>Disagreed</b>	<b>Pending</b>	
Professor	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
% RCAP Agreed with Proposal					<b>0</b>
% RCAP Agreed or Modified Proposal					<b>100</b>

**TABLE 2  
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON SCHOOL PROPOSALS  
2023-2024**

School	Number Proposed	RCAP Recommendation					% RCAP agreed w/dept. without modification	% RCAP agreed w/dept. or modified up or down
		Agree	Modify-Up	Modify-Down	Disagree	Pending		
Engineering	2	1	0	1	0	0	50	100
Natural Sciences	2	1	0	0	1	0	50	50
Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>75</b>

**TABLE 3  
CASES REVIEWED BY RCAP 2018 - present**

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
<b>Total Cases</b>	1	4	1	13	4
<b>Total Appointments</b>	0	1 (Endowed chair)	0	0	0
<b>Total Promotions</b>	1	0	0	9	0
<b>Total Merit Increases</b>	0	3 (1 Appeal review)	1	4 (including 1 Quinquennial Review)	4

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	<b>2023-2024</b>
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Appointments</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Promotions</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Merit Increases</b>	<b>3</b>