



**SPRING MEETING OF THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE**  
**MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023**  
**1:00 – 3:30 pm**  
**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ROOM 306**

**I. Chair’s Report and Announcements – *Division Chair Patti LiWang***

Division Chair LiWang made the following announcements and updates:

- This year, Senate leadership sought to build a relationship with Staff Assembly. Under-staffing and staff retention remain problematic.
- All commencement ceremonies over the weekend went well.
- Senate Chair LiWang thanked Chancellor Muñoz for the external funding he successfully acquired for UC Merced.
- EVC/Provost Camfield has been an excellent partner with the Senate and the Senate wishes him well in his next chapter. The Senate looks forward to working with Interim EVC/Provost Marjorie Zatz.
- This year, the first combined BS/MD SJV PRIME+ class of 15 students enters the UC Merced Baccalaureate program.
- Budget constraints, including the higher cost of supporting graduate students, remains a challenge.
- The Senate reviewed a large number of systemwide and campus items this academic year, including several proposals for new degree programs.

**II. Consent Calendar <sup>1</sup>**

- A. Approval of the Agenda
- B. Approval of the December 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes

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<sup>1</sup> Agenda items deemed non-controversial by the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Division, in consultation with the Divisional Council, may be placed on a Consent Calendar under Special Orders. Should the meeting not attain a quorum, the Consent Calendar would be taken as approved. (Quorum = Fifty (50) voting members of the Division are required for a quorum). At the request of any Divisional member, any Consent Calendar item is extracted for consideration under “New Business” later in the agenda. Christopher Viney, Secretary/Parliamentarian.

**Action:** The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

### III. Campus Updates – *Chancellor Muñoz and EVC/Provost Gregg Camfield*

Chancellor Muñoz made the following announcements:

- He thanked the faculty who participated in the Commencement ceremonies over the weekend. The campus had a record number of graduates.
- With regard to enrollment, UC Merced is slightly up from the projected melt from last year at this time. Fall 2023 enrollment is trending upwards of 9,450 students. That is not as high as UCOP expected. UC Merced needs to enroll as close to 9,700 students as possible; those additional students are needed to get the campus close to the number required for the continuation of the Governor’s five-year funding compact with the UC system in which the UC would receive a 5 % budget increase over each of the next five fiscal years. The Chancellor hopes the 5% remains in the budget, as it would add \$9 million to our budget. The salary increases would add \$10 million to the budget. Enrolling additional students would therefore add revenue to help offset that \$1 million deficiency so that the campus does not have to do deficit spending.
- Chancellor Muñoz then briefly discussed capital spending. UC Merced was poised to receive approximately \$96 million for infrastructure, however, the Legislative Analyst’s Office recommended against the allocation. There still may be a pathway for UC Merced to receive that funding through bonds. The funding will allow UC Merced to build an additional classroom building with larger capacity classrooms and programming.
- UC Merced submitted two proposals, including one with Merced College, for housing. The lack of housing for graduate students was an issue that was raised during the strike. UC Merced is requesting funding through the bonds.
- The plans for the building that will house the medical education program will be finished in November. It will be a state-of-the-art building with clinics, labs, and medical education programming.
- The impact of the UAW contract means that more funding is needed to support our graduate students.

EVC/Provost Camfield made the following announcements:

- He thanked the Senate for the gifts they gave him as he transitions out of his administrative role and back to the faculty.
- He summarized three areas that have an impact on the Temporary Academic Staffing (TAS) budget:
  - Historically, the campus has relied too heavily on non-Senate faculty, almost twice as much as other UC campuses. The Unit 18 lecturers generate a lot of student credit hours because they teach a lot of classes, but the campus needs to achieve a better balance between non-Senate faculty and Senate faculty to deliver the teaching mission.
  - TAs and Unit 18 lecturers are funded from the same budget, and both groups now have more expensive contracts. The campus must determine how to support graduate students in ways we have not done in the past.

- Growth. The campus established the buildings in the 2020 Project on the assumption that the campus would have over 10,000 students by now. That was the minimum number of students needed to cover our debt service. UC Merced would need 11,500 students to break even. UC Merced requested that UCOP invest in the campus. UCOP agreed, but their funding had conditions, for example, some of the funds they provided this year are specifically earmarked for developing new programs to increase enrollment.

A faculty member pointed out that Unit 18 lecturers are not spread out evenly across campus. At least one School is cutting back on Unit 18 lecturers but also not filling open Senate faculty FTE lines. The stress on departments to offer a rich curriculum in their majors is very high. Also, in 2009, UC Merced was told that its enrollment target was much lower than what is being discussed now. EVC/Provost Camfield responded that UCOP did not fund UC Merced's buildings when the campus was first built, then there was a recession, and finally, the pandemic broke our models. Chancellor Muñoz interjected to state that the 2020 Project is a significant factor in the challenges the campus is facing now. However, he likely would not have done it differently than previous leadership, because without the new buildings and labs, the campus cannot attract students. If the campus does not add substantial costs going forward, we should be in a more positive position. EVC/Provost Camfield added that the campus did continue doing faculty hiring in anticipation of reaching 10,000 students.

#### IV. **Divisional Senate Regulations - *CRE Chair, Secretary/Parliamentarian Christopher Viney***

##### A. Proposed Amendments to Senate Regulation Part I. Section 2.a (Repetition of Courses)

The amendments aim to align with the academic policy in the Catalog. The amendments were proposed by the Undergraduate and Divisional Councils. The proposed amendments and the relevant background were provided in the correspondence from the Undergraduate Council and the Committee on Rules and Elections and were linked on today's agenda.

CRE Chair and Secretary/Parliamentarian Viney summarized the proposed amendments. A faculty member in attendance suggested a modification to the language to state "...with the exception of any course taken to satisfy the entry level writing requirement..." No objections were raised by the Senate members in attendance.

A motion was made to endorse the proposed amendments to Senate Regulation Part I, Section 2.a. Repetition of Courses. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** the amendments to the Regulations will be effective June 25, 2023.

**V. Update on the Gallo Facilitation – Chair LiWang**

CAPRA Chair Mitchell and CAPRA Vice Chair Almeida were absent from today’s meeting, so Senate Chair LiWang provided a brief update. The Senate received the informal CCGA reviews of the Gallo School pre-proposal and issued them, together with a memo from Divisional Council, to all faculty. Campus leadership hired facilitators to guide the conversations about Gallo, and the facilitations sessions occurred recently. A work group was formulated this academic year to revise the policy for establishing new Schools so that such a process is not as contentious in the future.

**VI. Campus Wide Honors Program – Honors Program Work Group Chair Moyes**

Professor Moyes explained that a working group was formed in 2021 with VPDUE Frey as ex-officio. They received significant feedback on the proposed honors program from various campus constituents including the EVC/Provost, VPDUE Frey, Assistant EVC/Provost Martin, School Executive Committee, department chairs, and School deans. The proposal was transmitted to Divisional Council and to Senate committees. The second draft of the proposal was sent back to the campus for review. Professor Moyes requested that department chairs, School Executive Committee chairs, and deans share the proposal with their faculty. The School deans’ main concern with the proposed honors program was the potential heavy workload on their faculty. Professor Moyes responded by proposing a revised pilot rollout of only 30-60 students admitted in fall 2024. As of today, 10 department chairs have indicated their willingness to be part of the rollout. There are several ways that honors can be implemented. For example, some programs may choose to do individual contracts with students, or have an honors lab or discussion, or have the students take graduate-level courses. Professor Moyes pointed out that the SSHA and SNS deans as well as VPDUE Frey are now in support of the proposed campus honors program. The administration has provided financial support and evidence suggests that a campus wide honors program would increase enrollment.

Chancellor Muñoz stated that when he visits high schools and community colleges, he often hears questions about whether UC Merced has a campus wide honors program.

Senate Chair LiWang informed the meeting attendees that they will not vote on the proposed campus wide honors program in today’s meeting, rather, an electronic vote will be conducted later. In the meantime, she invited faculty to send any comments or questions to: [senatechair@ucmerced.edu](mailto:senatechair@ucmerced.edu)

**VII. Announcement: AY 23-24 Senate Leadership - CoC Vice Chair Irene Beattie**

CoC Chair Hagger was absent from today’s meeting, so CoC Vice Chair Beattie made the following announcements about AY 23-24 Senate leadership:

- Divisional Council
  - Chair – TBD
  - Vice Chair – TBD
- AFAC
  - Chair - Charlie Eaton
  - Vice Chair – Michael Cleary
- CAP
  - Chair - Sean Malloy
  - Vice Chair - Miriam Barlow
- RCAP
  - Chair - Anne Kelley.
  - Vice Chair - none required
- CAPRA
  - Chair – TBD
  - Vice Chair - Paul Almeida
- CoR
  - Chair - Tao Ye
  - Vice Chair – Jeanette Cobian
- CRE
  - Chair - Christopher Viney
  - Vice Chair - Naomi Petra
- EDI
  - Chair – Marcos Garcia-Ojeda
  - Vice Chair – TBD
- FWAF
  - Chair - Jayson Beaster-Jones
  - Vice Chair – TBD
- GC
  - Chair - Michael Scheibner
  - Vice Chair - John Abatzoglou
- LASC
  - Chair - Christopher Ojeda
  - Vice Chair – Sholeh Quinn
- P&T
  - Chair – Susan Amussen
  - Vice Chair – Robin DeLugan
- UGC
  - Chair - Heather Bortfeld
  - Vice Chair – Valerie Leppert

### VIII. Senate Awards – *Chair LiWang*

Senate Chair LiWang announced the winners of the AY 22-23 Senate awards:

- Dr. Fred Spiess Award for Distinguished Service to the Academic Senate
  - **Michael Scheibner, SNS**
- Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for Senate Faculty

- **Christopher Viney, SoE**
- Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for Non-Senate Faculty
- **Meaghan Altman, SSHA**
- Distinguished Graduate Teaching/Mentorship Award
- **Abel Chuang, SoE**
- Distinguished Early Career Research Award
- **Rachel Ryskin, SSHA**
- Distinction in Research Award
- **Martin Hagger, SSHA**
- Distinguished Scholarly Public Service Award
- **Colleen Naughton, SoE**
- Excellence in Faculty Mentorship Award
- **No nominations were received this year.**
- Senate Award for Contributions to Diversity
- **Roummel Marcia, SNS**

**IX. Petition of Students**

No petitions were presented.

**X. New Business**

No new business was raised.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Attest: Patti LiWang, Division Chair