



**SPRING MEETING OF THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021
2:00 – 3:30 PM
ZOOM**

I. Chair's Reports and Announcements – *Senate Chair DeLugan*

Chair DeLugan welcomed Senate members to the meeting. She expressed gratitude to the faculty for the adaptations they made during the pandemic to continue the education of students. Faculty research agendas and personal lives have been impacted and through it all, faculty demonstrated their commitment to UC Merced as they juggled competing priorities. Chair DeLugan stated that all Senate committees took on extra burdens this academic year and she recognizes their accomplishments and efforts. She recognized FWF, GC, and UGC in particular as making important contributions.

Chair DeLugan stated that Chancellor Muñoz and EVC/Provost Camfield have been good partners with the Academic Senate on developing COVID-19 guidelines, strategic and academic planning, structural racism, and the Valuing Black Lives task force. The Senate will add a value statement to the Division bylaws about anti-racism as will be mentioned later in today's meeting. The Anti-Racism Working Group will present a proposal to Divisional Council about establishing a mini grant program to focus on anti-racism and will recommend an assessment of the Senate's anti-racism efforts.

Chair DeLugan informed Senate members that today's agenda includes links to Senate committees' spring semester activities which members are encouraged to read. In the interest of time, committee chairs will not present oral updates at today's meeting. Comprehensive annual reports will be drafted by each Senate committee and will be available on the Senate website by the end of the summer.

Finally, Chair DeLugan thanked Senate committee chairs and the Senate staff for their work.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Approval of the Agenda
- B. Approval of Draft Minutes of the December 17, 2020 Meeting of the Division

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Campus Update - *Chancellor Sanchez Muñoz & EVC/Provost Camfield*

Chancellor Muñoz made the following announcements:

- over the last month, UC Merced has organized advocacy days/initiatives which are 30-minute meetings with state and federal lawmakers, specifically the chairs of key state Assembly and state Senate committees. UC Merced is advocating for both itself and the UC system. UC Merced's requests include a restoration of funds and increased funding, doubling Pell grant funding, support for DACA students, encouraging greater focus on international students that has dwindled the last four years, and support for medical education including the Health and Behavioral Sciences Medical Education (HBS-ME) building. The building would house research and instruction for medical education, psychology, and public health. This building is important to UC Merced and the region. Chancellor Muñoz stated that the architecture firm hired by the campus did a holistic assessment of the campus and vernal pools in an effort to incorporate all elements into the HBS-ME building. The building will reflect the spirit of the faculty, students, and staff. Chancellor Muñoz would like the architecture firm to provide a presentation to the faculty on the building plans.
- The Governor and the state legislature have asked the UC for supplemental budgets. This is a rare occurrence that is made possible by the unprecedented amount of federal stimulus funding that California received together with the revenue from surging taxes. California is expecting a significant budget surplus. UC campuses are asked to present one investment that will have a long-lasting impact. UC Merced will request the HBS-ME building. While UC Merced's budget augmentation may be modest compared to other UCs, any increased funding will benefit the campus. UC Merced still has a deficit, but it is not as significant as originally thought due to assistance from UCOP and the state. Chancellor Muñoz speaks with UC President Drake and UC Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom weekly. UC Merced's deficit is partly due to the pandemic and partly structural. Chancellor Muñoz is confident that the campus will substantially sunset a lot of the structural deficit.
- Increased enrollment is key to accelerating UC Merced's growth.
- The administration is working on a structured, safe, reasonable, and sensitive restoration of the on-campus workforce for the fall 2021 semester. More information will be issued to the campus after July 1. In the next month or two, Chancellor Muñoz and EVC/Provost Camfield will share with faculty some hybrid opportunities.
- Overall, Chancellor Muñoz is confident that UC Merced is moving in a positive direction in terms of budget outlook, enrollment, and a restoration of on-campus activities.

EVC/Provost Camfield made the following announcements:

- He and Interim CFO Schnier made recommendations to the Chancellor on budget cuts. UC Merced's modeling on the 2020 project was contingent on enrollment growth and funds from the state, neither of which occurred to a degree that the campus needed. The pandemic also significantly impacted UC Merced. However, as Chancellor Muñoz stated, enrollment numbers and the budget outlook are now both positive.
- With CAPRA as a partner, the campus previously developed a multi-year academic planning process and made a commitment to achieve R1 status. It was noted that per-faculty research expenditures would need to triple. EVC/Provost Camfield announced that research expenditures have significantly increased, and the campus is on a fast track to achieve R1 status.
- In the last year, there has been an increase in cyberattacks on faculty research data. The major ransomware attack on UCSF affected a large number of faculty from across the country whose data was kept in unprotected servers. The disruption to research was considerable and it is clear that the campus has to help faculty with data stewardship. To that end, EVC/Provost Camfield has been working on data curation with the California Digital Library. He will soon form a campus committee of Senate faculty and administrators that will be charged to work with a wide range of faculty researchers. EVC/Provost Camfield emphasized that this is not just about compliance; he wants to give the faculty the tools to keep their data safe.
- EVC/Provost Camfield thanked Senate Chair DeLugan for her leadership this year.

IV. Divisional Senate Bylaws and Regulations – CRE Chair & *Secretary/Parliamentarian Christopher Viney*

A. Proposed Amendments to Divisional Senate Bylaws

Background for the proposed revisions is provided in the February 25, 2020 and November 20, 2020 memos from the Committee on Rules and Elections, and from the Senate Chair, both of which were hyperlinked on today's agenda.

The proposed amendments were distributed to campus stakeholders on March 23, 2021 with comments requested by April 12, 2021. Proposed revised Bylaws were hyperlinked on today's agenda and reflect the April 19 addition of a section related to diversity (p. 4 of redlined copy) and AFAC's proposal to change the term of service of the AFAC chair from two years to one year.

Division members in attendance had no comments. Parliamentarian Viney called for a vote which was held electronically during the meeting.

Action: The Merced Division endorsed the proposed amendments to the Divisional Senate Bylaws by a vote of 63-0-1. The amendments will be effective June 14, 2021 and revised on the Senate website.

B. Proposed Amendments to Senate Regulations

- i Part IV (Master's Degree Requirements), Section 3.A
- ii Part V (Doctor of Philosophy Requirements), Sections 3.A and 4

Background: Graduate Council (GC) has proposed these amendments to address requests from multiple campus units to enable Professional Researchers to chair student committees (thesis, candidacy, and dissertation).

CRE discussed the proposed amendments and offered some suggestions, for consideration by GC. CRE's comments (page 4) and GC's response (page 1) were hyperlinked on today's agenda.

The proposed amendments were hyperlinked on today's agenda.

Division members in attendance had no comments. Parliamentarian Viney called for a vote which was held electronically during the meeting.

Action: The Merced Division endorsed the proposed amendments to Part IV (Master's Degree Requirements) Section 3.A and Part V (Doctor of Philosophy Requirements) Sections 3.A and 4 of the Senate Regulations by a vote of 61-0-0. The amendments will be effective June 14, 2021 and revised on the Senate website.

- iii Part IV (Master's Degree Requirements), Section 1 (Residency Requirement)

Background: Graduate Council has proposed this amendment to address the request from the Graduate Division to remove a clause that incorrectly references SR 686 to require a minimum period of study of one semester in-residence between formal advancement to candidacy and the conferring of the Master's degree.

The proposed amendments were hyperlinked on today's agenda.

Division members in attendance had no comments. Parliamentarian Viney called for a vote which was held electronically during the meeting.

Action: The Merced Division endorsed the proposed amendments to Part IV (Master's Degree Requirements) Section 1 (Residency Requirement) of the Senate Regulations by a vote of 61-0-1. The amendments will be effective June 14, 2021 and revised on the Senate website.

V. Support of Service for Undocumented Scholars at UC Merced: Annual Report of the Work Group – *Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Nies*

The annual report was hyperlinked on today's agenda. Vice Chancellor Nies stated that UC Merced received a grant from the California Campus Catalyst Fund to promote access to higher education and support students. Merced was the only UC campus to receive this grant. The work group included faculty from UGC and GC as well as graduate and undergraduate student representation and a staff member. As part of UC Merced's outreach activities, staff in the Services for Undocumented Students Office have partnered with community colleges and implemented a variety of programs and services.

VI. Announcement: AY 21-22 Division Chair and Vice Chair – *CoC Chair Chin*

CoC Chair Chin announced that the AY 21-22 Senate Chair will be LeRoy Westerling and the Senate Vice Chair will be Patti LiWang. Westerling thanked the Senate committee chairs and Senate staff for their work this year.

VII. Standing Committee Chair Reports

The Senate committee chairs' reports detailing the committees' spring 2021 activities were provided in writing and hyperlinked on today's agenda.

VIII. Question and Answer with Senate and Administrative Leadership

A faculty member asked what lessons the campus learned from the recently failed search for a campus CFO that can be applied to the next search. He pointed out that CFO is a critical position that requires strong leadership given UC Merced's R1 aspirations and the individual in the CFO role must be attuned to that goal. Chancellor Muñoz replied that the campus will work with the search firm to refine the job description to attract more suitable candidates. EVC/Provost Camfield added that he will keep the position vacant for six months and then reassess. He will fill the position after that time if he deems it necessary.

Chair DeLugan encouraged faculty to send additional question to senatechair@ucmerced.edu.

IX. AY 20-21 Senate Awards

Senate Chair DeLugan announced the following award winners:

- Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for Senate Faculty – **Holley Moyes, SSHA**
- Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award for Non-Senate Faculty – **Alexander Khislavsky, SSHA**
- Distinguished Graduate Teaching/Mentorship Award –

- **Fred Wolf, SNS**
- Distinguished Early Career Research Award –
Jennifer Howell, SSHA
- Distinction in Research Award –
ShiPu Wang, SSHA
- Distinguished Scholarly Public Service Award –
Anna Song, SSHA
- Excellence in Faculty Mentorship Award –
Ashlie Martini, SOE
- Senate Award for Contributions to Diversity –
Rudy Ortiz, SNS
- Dr. Fred Spiess Award for Distinguished Service to the Academic Senate –
Carolin Frank, SNS

X. Petitions of Students
No petitions were presented

XI. New Business
No new business was raised

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.
Attest: Robin DeLugan, Senate Chair