

**Meeting of the Merced Division
Minutes of Meeting
December 2, 2015**

Pursuant to call, the Merced Division of the Academic Senate met at 1:30 pm on December 2, 2015 in Room 232 of the Kolligian Library, Senate Chair Cristián Ricci presiding.

I. Announcements

Division Council Chair Cristián Ricci encouraged faculty to serve on Senate committees then summarized the systemwide and campus issues reviewed and discussed by Division Council thus far in this academic year:

- 2020 Project faculty survey
- Faculty salary increase allocation
- Proposed revisions to the L(P)SOE chapter of the MAPP
- Revised GASP major proposal
- Public Health bylaw 55 unit proposal
- University Honors Task Force report
- Lack of diversity in UCM endowed chairs and the large number of unfilled chairs
- Proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 140
- Proposed revisions to Senate Regulations 417 and 621
- Proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment.

II. Consent Calendar

Minutes from the April 23, 2015 Meeting of the Division.

ACTION: Minutes were approved as presented.

III. Consultation with Provost/EVC Peterson

Provost/EVC Peterson provided the following updates:

--Strategic Academic Focusing (SAF)

- The Provost announced that he has met with the steering committees of all three pillars that were identified to receive FTE lines this year. Computational Science & Data Analytics is the farthest along and is ready to post advertisements for faculty positions. However, the Provost expressed his appreciation for the level of engagement shown by faculty in all the SAF pillars. He emphasized that any positions that are unfilled this year will roll over into next year; positions will not be taken away.
- The Provost announced that by the end of this week, he will announce his decision on the allocation of the four foundational FTE lines.
- The Provost stated that early in 2016, he would like faculty input on the allocation of foundational FTE lines for the next academic year.
In addition, he wants the remaining three pillars to articulate their hiring plans by summer 2016.
- Though the Provost released a six-year hiring plan last year, there may be some attenuation on faculty hiring based on space challenges.

--2020 Project

- The Provost shared his and the Chancellor's elation at the Regents' approval of UCM's 2020 Project. The Provost also praised faculty members for their valuable and continuing input to the design teams. He also stated that he will meet with AVC for Real Estate Abigail Rider tomorrow to discuss faculty concerns.

--Budget Framework Implementation (BFI) updates

- The Provost thanked the faculty members who supported and participated in this initiative. Initiated by UCOP, the BFI

includes 1) Transfer pathways, 2) identifying a three-year pathway for a four-year degree, 3) a major requirements project, which is modeled after UCLA's project entitled "Challenge 45", to describe how to complete major requirements with no more than one year's worth of discipline-specific courses in upper division, and 4) activity-based costing. For the latter, UCM is one of three pilot campuses undertaking this costing project. UCM is to conduct a scoping study and we are analyzing the expectations, workload, and estimated cost for this study in the schools.

--Endowed Chairs update.

- The Provost received the memo from Division Council as drafted by the Committee for Diversity and Equity (D&E) which pointed out the lack of diversity in UCM's endowed chairs and the fact that many chairs are unfilled. The Provost stated that he agrees with the basic tenets of the memo, including the number of unfilled chairs. He asked D&E and the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom for input on how to move forward with establishing processes on the nomination of endowed chairs. (The process for the *approval* of a selected candidate for an endowed chair is included in the MAPP, but the process for nominations at the school-level is not fully established.)
- With regard to the recent nomination of the MacArthur Foundation chair, the Provost stated that he recommended candidates with the approval of a committee of faculty members in the absence of an established process.

A brief question and answer period followed the Provost's updates. A Division Council member mentioned that the Council recently saw the student enrollment projections; the enrollments are aggressive and the campus has a serious lack of space. To what degree will temporary buildings be constructed? The Provost acknowledged that this is a continued topic of discussion for which the campus has no solutions yet.

A Division Council member announced that a summary of faculty responses from the 2020 Project survey will be distributed soon.

A faculty member raised the issue of campus growth occurring parallel with the growth of the Merced community and inquired to what extent our campus's growth will affect the town. The Provost replied that major impacts will occur with regard to water and transportation, and that these issues were discussed long ago. UCM had to prove that it had the available surrounding infrastructure before the 2020 project was brought before the Regents. Another example of UCM's growth impacting the community is the building of the new downtown center for campus employees. The Provost noted that faculty members in attendance would like a clear articulation of infrastructure as it affects both the campus and the broader regional area.

A Division Council member asked for clarification on allotted FTEs for endowed chairs. The Provost confirmed that endowed chairs are associated with individual positions – either pillar or foundational – or for an existing faculty FTE line.

With regard to filling endowed chair positions, a Division Council member inquired whether it is feasible to fill the suggested number of chairs as recommended in the D&E memo. The Provost replied that he wants to concentrate less on a numerical standard and more on the most beneficial method determined by the excellence of the candidates. Another Council member pointed out that per the D&E memo, there is only one female endowed chair at UCM and the Provost responded that he will underscore this point in future solicitations.

A Division Council member stated that she and other faculty members were pleasantly surprised that faculty needs were being communicated to

the design teams in the various rounds of meetings this semester. But, there is still much concern over the quantity of laboratory space. The Provost replied that he will continue to communicate this concern to the design teams. He added that space will continue to pose a major challenge and this is why he is encouraging cluster hires and shared facilities.

A faculty member asked if there are future plans to return space to the library for books and students and the Provost replied that he remains hopeful.

A Division Council member raised the issue of investments in discretionary funds to build communities on campus. The Provost responded that there is a need for infrastructural support, centralized research facilities, and additional faculty hires in addition for support for organizing events such as colloquia and fostering external collaborations. However, it is a question of prioritizing. Right now, we can invest in research areas with institutional funds as seed money.

IV. Reports from Senate Standing Committees

The chairs of the standing committees reported the following committee business for AY 15-16 thus far:

--Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA):

- In response to the Provost's request, and pursuant to his announcement of the release of four foundational FTE lines, CAPRA reviewed all foundational FTE requests from each school. At its meeting at the end of October, CAPRA made a recommendation to the Provost (who was at the meeting) on the allocation of the foundational lines: the committee recommended six areas (instead of four) to receive these foundational lines.
- CAPRA has consulted with steering committee representatives from the IPSJ, Sustainability, and CSDA pillars on their hiring plans.

- CAPRA consulted with AVC for Real Estate Rider on 2020 Project updates.
- CAPRA regularly consults with the Provost who has attended nearly every CAPRA meeting this semester.
- CAPRA chair serves as the campus representative to the University Committee on Planning & Budget (UCPB) and the major discussion items are: the possible effects of an increase in undergraduate enrollment across the UC, and, funding concerns with self-supporting programs, and the UC Retirement Program.
- CAPRA opined on several campus and systemwide review items such as honors task force report, CCGA proposals, revised academic degree policy, and the GASP major proposal.

--Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP)

- CAP met in October, did not meet in November due to a lack of cases, but has resumed meeting in December.
- October 12 was the annual APO/CAP meeting attended by CAP members, faculty, deans, Vice Provost for the Faculty, and the Provost. The Q&A session consisted of questions about the tenure review process, grants, publications, external letters, career equity reviews, the diversity of membership on CAP, and accelerations.
- CAP opined as requested on campus review items such as proposed revisions to the MAPP.

--Committee on Committees (CoC)

- CoC is still trying to appoint a Vice Chair for Privilege and Tenure committee, a natural scientist for CAP, an additional Graduate Council member, faculty representation on the TAPs advisory committee, and faculty representation on academic technology and computing committees. The CoC chair related that many faculty members are declining Senate service due to other obligations in their schools and SAF- related activities.

--Committee for Diversity and Equity (D&E)

Due to the absence of D&E committee members at today's meeting, the D&E chair submitted updates prior to the meeting for inclusion in the meeting packet. Updates include:

- In October, D&E sent a memo to the Senate Chair and the Vice Provost for the Faculty (VPF) on endowed chairs, recommending that a call for nominations for vacant endowed chairs should be issued immediately by the school deans and a clear explanation of the process, timeline, and criteria for nomination should accompany this announcement.
- In November, D&E sent a memo to the Senate Chair regarding the President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP) and the fact that assistant professors cannot serve as postdoc mentors. D&E argued that UCM is placed at a disadvantage not being able to allow untenured faculty members to serve as post doc mentors because it diminishes assistant professors' roles in forming the collaboration with a postdoc and in attracting such applicants to the UC in the first place; moreover, not allowing a postdoc to apply to be a President's Postdoctoral Fellow because their advisor is an assistant professor does a disservice to the specific postdoc and to the field as a whole
- D&E tasked each committee member to identify two faculty members in his/her school who would be willing to serve as faculty equity advisors.
- D&E Chair represents the committee on the University Committee on Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Equity (UCAADE). Updates from UCAADE include discussion on the faculty salary equity study and the Regents' Statement of Principles Against Intolerance.
- D&E continually consults with the VPF (ex-officio/non-voting member of the committee) and the Director of Campus Climate.
- D&E opined as requested on campus and systemwide items including the distribution of the 1.5% increase in faculty salaries, the undergraduate program review policy, and the Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment.

--Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom (FWAF)

- FWAF regularly consults with the VPF who is an ex-officio/non-voting member of the committee, the Associate Chancellor, and the Director of Campus Climate.
- FWAF members participated in the interviews for the positions of campus Ombuds and Director of Compliance.
- FWAF continues to co-organize (with Academic Personnel) the faculty professional development series. Workshop topics include: grant writing, work/life balance, and mentorship.
- FWAF is again working with APO and the school deans on the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity /Faculty Success program online training program.
- FWAF chair represents the campus at the University Committee on Academic Freedom. The major topic of discussion is the Regents' proposed Statement of Principles against Intolerance.
- FWAF also receives updates from the University Committee on Faculty Welfare (campus representative is Professor Sean Malloy in SSHA) where major items of discussion include UC health plans and changes to the UC Retirement Program.
- FWAF recently consulted with new AVC for Public Safety & Police Chief Al Vasquez on faculty members' role in a campus emergency preparedness plan.
- FWAF opined as requested on campus and systemwide items including the distribution of the 1.5% increase in faculty salaries.

--Committee on Research (COR)

- COR is revising the criteria and evaluation of the Senate faculty research grants. The Provost/EVC agreed to increase the funding for this program for the next two years.
- COR is working with the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development (VCORED) Traina on one,

comprehensive campus policy on the establishment and review of research units, centers, and core facilities.

- COR is working with the VCORED on revising the limited submission policy.

--Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE)

- By request, CRE has opined on bylaws from various bylaw 55 units.
- CRE often responds to individual queries on voting; as such, the committee's goal for the year is to proposal a campus policy for voting eligibility. CRE will poll the faculty for input.

--Graduate Council (GC)

- Updates on CCGA proposals: Economics is currently being reviewed by CCGA, Mechanical Engineering will be transmitted to CCGA in January, and Public Health, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, and Biological Engineering & Small Scale Technologies are all under revision.
- GC is working on the following initiatives: teaching as scholarship (teaching as graduate students' apprenticeships), white paper on the review of graduate student fellowships (clarify the scholarly goals/targets for the fellowships), a policy on concentrations and designated emphases (to offer focal suite of disciplinary or interdisciplinary courses that would appear on student transcripts), and revising the CRF process to clarify when and how conjoined courses are offered.
- GC reviewed the Graduate Advisors' Handbook, graduate group policies & procedures, graduate group bylaws, and the grade appeals policy.
- GC chair regularly attends systemwide meetings of the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs.

--Undergraduate Council (UGC)

- UGC made recommendations on the Course Withdrawal policy, the revised GASP major proposal; reviewed the Public Health Bylaw 55 unit proposal, the university Honors task force report and the revised undergraduate program review policy.

V. Petitions of Students
None.

VI. Unfinished Business
None.

VII. New Business

- Chair Ricci voiced his thanks to Senate Interim Director Fatima Paul and Senate Principal Analyst Simrin Takhar for their work.
- A Division Council member announced that faculty will host panels and speaker series for President's Postdoctoral Fellows in spring 2016. This event is intended to assist the postdocs expand their networks and has the support of the President's Postdoctoral Fellow Program. Specific information will be issued to the campus soon.
- A Division Council member inquired about UCM's absence of an academic federation as exists on other campuses. Academic federations include individuals in titles that are not included in other organizations or unions such as Project Scientists, Adjuncts, Librarians, and Museum Curators.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Attest: Cristián Ricci, Senate Chair