



Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair
Deborah Karoff, Executive Director

ACADEMIC SENATE
Santa Barbara Division
1233 Girvetz Hall
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3050
(805) 893 4118
<http://www.senate.ucsb.edu>

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Dear Colleagues,

You will have received the Chancellor's welcome and update letter on a number of the current and forthcoming developments at UCSB. It is encouraging to note the academic ranking of the campus continues at a level that reflects the groundbreaking research and many awards received by campus faculty. The stellar achievements of all undergraduate students have allowed us to develop our teaching and intellectual projects in innovative ways, which will be further supported by the new faculty presently being recruited to UCSB. The designation of our campus as an Hispanic Serving Institution is being celebrated – celebrations that began in Spring 2015 and will continue for the coming year – and confirms to all that issues of diversity and equity are a key commitment of all members of our community.

The Library expansion opens in Winter 2016 and offers a space for students and faculty to work together on the many, often interdisciplinary, projects that make UCSB unique. The success in having Cottage Hospital become part of UC Care's Tier One, after almost three years of lobbying, is a considerable improvement on the health care offerings at this campus, and we are all appreciative of the considerable efforts expended by the Chancellor and Professor Richard Watts in this regard.

I also write to inform you of initiatives that specifically affect us, the members of the Academic Senate.

Transfer Initiatives

The Office of the President, as part of the agreement with the Governor and the Legislature, is working to ensure that the academic pathways for transfer students are clear and unambiguous. To that end, many departments have already sent faculty representatives to systemwide meetings – held in April and October 2015 – that discussed the recommended courses to prepare a student for each major, so that potential transfers from community colleges know what will be expected of them when they apply to UCSB. As you may imagine, this is academically and logistically complex, and I thank all the Senate staff at UCSB, and many others, who have done so much to ensure that the UCSB representatives are well briefed. This project demonstrates that accessibility to the UC remains a primary concern for all.

Academic Freedom

As always, academic freedom lies at the heart of all university work. Our right to free and open

expression also demands that we discuss our differences of opinion amongst ourselves. To that end, in Spring 2015, the Systemwide Senate Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) issued a statement which is now on the [UCSB Senate](#) website.

The UC Regents have created a working group to examine intolerance and [invite](#) all members of the public, which includes the whole of the UC community, to comment. The public forum is being held, today, Monday 26th October. However, I believe that comments may be submitted to the Regents during this month. UCAF has produced [a statement](#) on this matter for the Regents.

Sustainability

The campus continues to be at the cutting edge of sustainability initiatives amongst US universities. The [Chancellor's Campus Sustainability Committee](#) (CSC) comprised of Senate members, faculty, and administrators has a number of workgroups to which faculty are invited to participate. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have an interest in participating in any of the Work Groups.

Preventing and Responding to Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment

President Napolitano is in the process of establishing a joint Administrative and Senate Committee to develop recommendations on how best to handle cases of sexual assault and harassment involving UC faculty. The Committee will be under the aegis of the Presidential [Task Force](#) that also considers such matters. It will be co-chaired by Sheryl Vacca, UCOP Senior Vice President and Chief Compliance and Audit Officer, and Dan Hare, Chair of the systemwide Academic Senate and Professor of Entomology at UC Riverside.

Education Abroad

The University of California Education Abroad Program (UCEAP) is now accepting UC faculty applications two-year [Faculty Director](#) and short-term [Visiting Professor](#) appointments.

Chancellor's Stewardship of the Campus

Chancellor Yang is being reviewed for his stewardship of the Santa Barbara campus during the past five years. The UCSB Academic Senate will initiate our review on November 1st. Within a few days I shall send a letter from President Napolitano that seeks input from all faculty on Chancellor Yang's stewardship. In that letter the President refers to a specific UCOP electronic mailbox to which all comments may be directed, and which will be kept confidential by the President and her staff.

I hope this time in the quarter is not too busy or onerous for all. I wish you all the very best for the remaining weeks of teaching in this quarter, and for the upcoming holiday season.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have any concerns or questions. I can be reached at bhavnani@ucsb.edu.

Yours,

Kum-Kum Bhavnani
Chair, [Santa Barbara Division of the Academic Senate](#)