June 18, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

There is quite a lot of news to update you on this month, as our long COVID year finally comes to an end.

**Campus reopening.** According to the Chancellor’s recent memo, staff who have been working remotely will gradually begin to return to campus starting July 1, 2021 with a goal of full return by September 1, 2021. Students will occupy more campus housing over the summer, and housing will be at full capacity in fall quarter. Occupancy limits on faculty offices, research labs, studios, and other workspaces were eliminated as of June 15, 2021. Updated information on maskings and social distancing required inside campus buildings is expected next week, following the June 17 Cal/OSHA decision in combination with Governor Newsom’s latest Executive Order relaxing restrictions on fully vaccinated individuals.

We expect an official announcement from UCOP by mid-summer about a systemwide COVID vaccine mandate. Faculty who have been vaccinated off-campus should upload their vaccine information here (faculty vaccinated by Student Health Services on campus do not need to provide any additional verification).

**Fall instruction.** Although most summer courses (which were planned months ago) will still be offered remotely, the campus intends to return to fully in-person instruction in Fall 2021. Limited exceptions will be granted for instructors with medical exemptions and those teaching classes that accommodate large numbers of international students who have been unable to obtain visas. All faculty, even those teaching remote and online courses, are expected to be in residence, as required by APM 730. Students are also expected to be in residence. Based on their projections, our public health experts expect classrooms to be available for use at full capacity. Details of the Senate’s fall planning and decision-making process are posted on the Senate website here.

If public health conditions do not follow the expected positive trajectory, our fall instructional plans will be reevaluated, and appropriately revised, prior to the start of the quarter. The Senate will host a town hall meeting, in partnership with the EVC, in early September to update instructors and answer questions about the status of these plans and decisions. You should expect to receive a save-the-date announcement by email within the next few weeks.
Chancellor’s Infant Care Initiative for assistant professors. Last year, in consultation with the Senate, the Chancellor set up an Infant Care Initiative to provide support for assistant professors with children under the age of 2 years who are waitlisted for a place at one of the campus’ Childcare Centers. This program experienced significant difficulties and delays in its implementation, but we believe the problems have finally been resolved. All applicants should now have been notified of the status of their applications. Any outstanding questions about existing applications can be directed to brettcollins@ucsb.edu and/or alex.radde@ltsc.ucsb.edu. The program is expected to reopen to new applicants this summer, managed by the Office of the VC DEI.

Faculty salary range adjustment. President Drake recently announced a 3% range adjustment to the salary scales for Academic Senate faculty, effective October 1, 2021. Note that the increase applies only to the salary scales (not to off-scale pay), therefore faculty with off-scale supplements will receive total pay increases less than 3% overall. Above-scale professors can expect a salary increase equivalent to the change in the Prof IX scale.

UC data breach. On December 24, 2020, during the winter curtailment period at UCOP, UC was the victim of a broad cyberattack on an Accellion file transfer software used for confidential communications between UCOP and the campuses, including communications involving UCPath. The attack involved the theft of the personal data of as many as 1 million people associated with UC, including UC employees and their beneficiaries, students and prospective students, patients, and participants in UC outreach programs. The stolen data may include names, addresses, social security numbers, banking information, disability information, birthdates, telephone numbers, driver’s licence numbers, health and benefit information, netIDs and passwords. Although a patch was published for the vulnerability a few days before this date, it had yet to be applied.

UC became aware of the theft in late March, when individuals whose data had been stolen reported receiving email demands for payments to prevent the release of their personal data. UCOP immediately released a code to allow all affected individuals to sign up free for one year of Experian IdentityWorks credit monitoring, internet surveillance, identity restoration assistance, and identify theft insurance. UCOP also launched an investigation, in collaboration with law enforcement, which is still ongoing.

UCSB IT recommends that all faculty sign up for the Experian IdentityWorks credit monitoring service (which requires supplying personal information such as social security number) in order to be notified if their personal information is released. If your UCSBnetID password is compromised, it should be changed immediately following the Identity Manager procedures. Faculty are also advised to place a freeze on their credit histories at all three credit agencies (there is no charge for placing or lifting a freeze, but you must contact all three credit agencies - Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion - to do so). This allows only existing creditors to check your credit history, and should prevent unauthorized opening of new credit accounts in your name. More guidance is available from UCSB IT, including a workshop
recording and accompanying slide presentation about the incident and how to protect your information. Updates are posted on the UCOP website.

In early May 2021, UCOP deactivated the generic Experian code, replacing it with personalized codes sent by email May 12-14, 2021, with the subject line “NOTICE OF DATA BREACH”, from no-reply@marketing.csid.com. In spite of this unfortunate address, our campus allowed these emails to pass through its spam filters. All faculty should have received a set of individual codes to use for themselves and each of their registered family members/beneficiaries. Those who already signed up using the original Experian code do not need to do so again. Those who did not receive new codes may have lost them to another spam filter, or were simply not notified. In either case, codes can be requested by emailing communications@ucop.edu or calling 1-866-904-6220. We do not know if or when the Experian service will be extended beyond the one-year duration required by California law.

**Faculty awards.** Please join me in congratulating our exceptional colleagues who are recipients of Senate awards announced in spring quarter 2021.

**Senate awards for 2020-21**

*Faculty Research Lecturer Award*
- Distinguished Professor Richard Mayer, Psychological and Brain Sciences

*Faculty Diversity Award*
- Professor Victor Rios, Sociology

*Distinguished Teaching Awards*
- Professor Walid Afifi, Communication
- Assistant Professor Summer Gray, Environmental Studies
- Lecturer SOE Yogananda Isukapalli, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Associate Professor Andy Merolla, Communication
- Senior Lecturer SOE Madeleine Sorapure, Writing Program
- Associate Professor David Walker, Religious Studies

*Outstanding Graduate Mentor Awards*
- Distinguished Professor Peter Ford, Chemistry & Biochemistry
- Professor Tim Sherwood, Computer Science
- Distinguished Professor Frank Zok, Materials

**Faculty awards for 2021-22**

*Harold J. Plous Award* (given by the L&S Faculty Executive Committee)
- Assistant Professor Carolina Arias, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

*Edward A. Dickson Emeriti Professorships* (given by the Office of the Executive Vice-Chancellor)
- Professor Emeritus Mike Furlong, Counseling, Clinical and School Psychology
- Professor Emeritus Francisco Lomeli, Chicana/o Studies

**Faculty research awards.** The Faculty Grants Committee met during Spring quarter to decide the recipients of the 2021-22 Faculty Research Grants and Pearl Chase Research Grants. Funding requests totaled $1,572,306. The committee awarded $927,515 in Faculty Research
Grants, and $35,857 in Pearl Chase Research Grants. The term of these grants is from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022; recipients are encouraged to return their signed agreement (if they have not already done so) to facilitate the transfer of funds at the start of the new fiscal year. The next call for proposals will be announced late in fall quarter, with a submission deadline at the end of winter quarter. For more information, please visit https://senate.ucsb.edu/grants/.

Future Senate town hall meetings. Prior to the start of fall quarter, in early September 2021, the Senate will hold a reprise of its recent virtual town hall meeting on fall instruction. In partnership with the EVC, the meeting will include updates from the COVID-19 task force, Senate leaders and administrators. We also expect to brief attendees on plans for student acclimatization and support activities specific to this unusual reopening quarter. An email with a Zoom link will be sent to faculty about a week prior to the event.

The Senate also plans to hold town hall meetings in the coming academic year to consult and inform faculty on diversity and childcare issues, our WASC reaccreditation progress (including the selection of thematic pathways), and proposed changes to the teaching evaluation system. Suggestions for future topics are welcome; please send your ideas to us at shasta@ucsb.edu.

As this difficult academic year comes to a close, we can be proud of the hard work the faculty has done, often with little recognition of how much the effort has cost us, to keep the university running and our students on track in their academic programs. I am very grateful to all of you who have contributed to our shared governance over the past year. You have helped to make our university a better place to return to. To those who have agreed to serve on Senate committees and initiatives in the coming year, thank you. We still have much work to do to restore our campus to its former vibrancy, and to become more inclusive, transparent, and sustainable. Finally, a special shout-out to the amazing Senate staff - Shasta, Casey, Kyle, Kelly, Jon, Jackie, Vince R, Teresa, Andy and Vince N - for their ‘ask me anything’ attitude, and for keeping the ship afloat all year.

I wish everyone a relaxing summer. I look forward to seeing you in the fall and working with you to further our mutual goals.

Sincerely,
Susannah Scott
Academic Senate Divisional Chair, UC Santa Barbara