

The following message is being sent to all Senate members and academic assistant deans.

UC SANTA BARBARA

Academic Senate

Divisional Chair's Newsletter - February 24, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

I write today with some updates for faculty who support graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, and an announcement about this year's commencement activities.

Guidance related to federal effort reporting for fall quarter 2022

When faculty serve as principal investigators on federal grants, we are required to certify work done by the graduate students and postdoctoral scholars we pay from these grants. In the absence of time cards or self-attestations for fall quarter, PIs need other information in order to complete these effort reports accurately. UCOP has now provided guidance on how to obtain information specific to the second half of fall quarter 2022, when some of our graduate students and postdoctoral scholars were on strike. The guidance is summarized in a new [letter](#) to faculty from our systemwide Senate leadership. Additional questions about specific situations can be directed to our [Employee and Labor Relations](#) unit in Human Resources.

If effort during the strike period has not been or cannot be ascertained, PIs are advised to move salaries for employees paid from federal grants to a non-federal departmental account. Each department and ORU has received instructions on how to do this. It is important to proceed in a timely manner, because adjustments/transactions are considered [noncompliant after 120 days and are scrutinized during audit](#). Please direct your questions about whether any action is necessary to your MSO.

Future support for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars

We know that the uncertainty surrounding implementation of the new contracts and the significant cost increases are causing concern among faculty instructors as well

as faculty PIs whose grants are, for the most part, not adjustable. Furthermore, in a [meeting](#) of the State Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Educational Finance, on February 21, 2023, Chair Kevin McCarty told President Drake that the Legislature does not plan to provide more resources to UC to help us deal with our increased labor costs.

We understand that it has taken more time than we expected to obtain official information about the new contracts. Usually, negotiations end with an agreement between both parties on the precise wording of each article. The settlement of the recent UAW contracts via mediation meant that many details remained to be worked out in post-strike negotiations. Nevertheless, the Senate's Executive Council has asked the campus to provide information urgently on the levels and mechanisms of its support for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. Specifically, in a letter dated February 21, 2023, the Executive Council requested:

1. guidance for departments about TA support levels for the 2023-24 academic year
2. guidance for departments about how to implement the new GSR contracts for continuing students
3. financial support for principal investigators to reduce the burden of the abrupt increase in salary costs and stabilize employment for current graduate students and postdoctoral scholars

Discussion of all of these issues is in progress on our campus, and we hope faculty will receive useful information shortly.

Acknowledging the evolving labor environment, Chancellor Yang announced at the Faculty Legislature meeting on January 26, 2023 that consultation is underway to establish a committee that will make recommendations on support mechanisms for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. Senate leaders are working with the Chancellor to move this plan forward.

Senate Town Hall on External Support for Faculty Research and Creative Activities

On February 28, 2023 from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m., the Senate will host a virtual Town Hall to discuss support mechanisms for faculty research and creative activities with campus leaders. Although planning for this event has been underway for some time, the need to optimize our procedures and enhance faculty success in raising external funds is now greater due to the new contracts for graduate student and postdoctoral employees. We invite you to submit questions for discussion [here](#), and to join the meeting using the link provided in your email invitation last week.

For faculty who are unable to attend, the presentations by Senate leaders and the Vice Chancellor for Research, in the first half hour of the Town Hall (prior to the panel discussion), will be recorded for later viewing. We will also collect and summarize

the questions posed before and during the meeting for follow up after the meeting. I hope to see you there.

Also, a reminder that the Academic Senate allocates internal funding for faculty research and creative activities (up to \$20,000 per award) through the Faculty Research Grants program. Application instructions and sample proposals are available on the Senate [website](#). The deadline to apply is April 2, 2023, for projects starting July 1. Please note that these funds are not primarily intended to support graduate students.

Format of Commencement 2023

The campus is planning for a return to the pre-pandemic format of our commencement ceremonies, including the involvement of faculty in the processions. The ceremonies will take place on Sunday, June 11 (CCS), Friday, June 16 (Bren and Graduate Division), Saturday, June 17 (MLPS and Engineering) and Sunday, June 18 (Social Sciences, HFA). The full Commencement Ceremony Schedule is available [here](#). The Regalia Order Form for faculty participating in the procession will be available starting March 13 (more information will be coming soon).

Sincerely,
Susannah Scott
Divisional Chair



Copyright © 2021
The Regents of the University of California.
All Rights Reserved.