

*The following message is being sent to Senate members.*

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January 23, 2024

## **Divisional Chair's Newsletter**

Dear Colleagues,

I write to share a few timely news items that may be of interest to you as Senate members.

**UC Regents' Meeting.** I draw your attention to two important issues on the [agenda](#) for this week's meeting of the UC Regents.

The first is the proposed adoption of a Regents' Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites. It will be discussed in a [joint session](#) of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and the Compliance and Audit Committee, starting at 3:55 p.m. on **Wednesday, January 24**. According to the [agenda materials](#), the [proposed policy](#) "would provide that the official channels of communication to conduct the business of the University should not be used for purposes of publicly expressing the personal or collective opinions of unit members or of the entity." We believe the policy would effectively bar departmental political statements from department websites and other official University channels of communication. Today, the systemwide Academic Council sent a [letter](#) to President Drake expressing serious concern about the process by which this proposed policy was developed.

The second issue is the [consideration](#) of [Senate Regulation 630.E](#) by the full Board, at their meeting starting on **Thursday, January 25** at 11:30 a.m. The regulation concerns the campus experience requirement for undergraduate students, which was adopted by the Academic Senate last February to ensure compliance with our accreditation rules (which do not currently allow us to award, whether intentionally or inadvertently, online degrees). The contentious discussion between the Academic Senate and the Regents on this topic has been reported recently by the media (examples [here](#) and [here](#)).

Video live streaming of the January 23-25 Regents' meeting is [available](#) on the Regents' website. Faculty may [sign up](#) to submit a public comment by 5 p.m. the day

before a meeting.

**APC Doctoral Education Interim Report.** In spring 2023, the systemwide Academic Planning Council (APC) convened a Workgroup on the Future of Doctoral Programs at UC, co-chaired by myself and Gillian Hayes (UC Irvine). The workgroup recently issued an interim [report](#) with preliminary recommendations. It is currently under review by Senate councils and committees systemwide. Feedback from individual Senate members is also [welcome](#). The workgroup is expected to issue its final report in spring 2024.

**TEW Report and Recommendations.** The Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and the Academic Senate have released for campus review the summary and recommendations of our joint Teaching Evaluation Workgroup (TEW). A letter from EVC Marshall and me provides important context about the TEW's work and the review process. It is available [here](#), and includes a copy of the full report.

Individual feedback from Senate members on the report and its recommendations can be directed to [set-revisions@senate.ucsb.edu](mailto:set-revisions@senate.ucsb.edu), on or before **February 16, 2024**.

**Interactive Learning Pavilion.** The Interactive Learning Pavilion at UC Santa Barbara has been nominated for the "US Building of the Year" award, given by the network american-architects.com. The building with the most public votes by **Sunday, January 28, 2024** will be highlighted online and in their newsletter on January 30. You can vote for the project at: <https://www.american-architects.com/en/building-of-the-year>. You may share the link; it allows one vote per person/per email address.

**Academic Senate Divisional Elections.** Next week, you will receive instructions by email from the Senate's Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction, and Elections regarding the 2024 Academic Senate Elections. This year, the Santa Barbara Division of the Academic Senate will elect a new Divisional Chair, as well as three representatives to the systemwide Assembly of the Academic Senate, and four members of our divisional Committee on Committees. I strongly encourage you to participate in this aspect of shared governance by nominating and endorsing candidates.

**Call for Senate Service in 2024-25.** Service on Academic Senate [councils and committees](#) is critical to the shared governance of our university. All tenured, tenure-track, emeritus, and faculty with security of employment or potential security of employment, are members of the Academic Senate, and all are eligible to serve.

If you are interested in Academic Senate service in 2024-25, please complete the [Senate Service Preference Form](#), on or before **Friday, January 26, 2024**.

**Faculty Legislature Meeting.** The March meeting of the Faculty Legislature has been rescheduled to **Thursday, March 14** from 3:30-5:00 p.m. The meeting will take place via Zoom, and all members of the Academic Senate are welcome to attend. The agenda will be circulated to all members via email on the Friday prior to the meeting.

**New Rule on State-Funded and State-Sponsored Travel to States with Discriminatory Laws.** On September 13, 2023, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 447, which ended travel restrictions under Assembly Bill 1887 to states with anti-LGBTQ+ legislation, effective immediately. [UC Travel Regulations](#) have been revised to remove the language previously associated with AB 1887. Effective immediately, Senate research grants (some of which use state funds) are no longer restricted in this way.

Sincerely,  
Susannah Scott  
Divisional Chair, Academic Senate



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