UC Berkeley

Academic Senate Chair - Berkeley Division

Dear Colleagues,

So many topics to discuss! I'm actually not sure where to begin, so I might as well start with some good news: At their January meeting, the UC Regents approved revisions to APM015/016 (regarding faculty discipline processes and extramural speech protections and limits) that thoroughly reflected the collective input from faculty senates across the UC system. While the imposition of the problematic interim policy last summer raised concerns for me about UC's commitment to shared governance, the processes of input and deliberation in the fall, and the outcomes with the Regents this past month, have gone a long way towards restoring my confidence.

As I highlighted in my January newsletter, the Academic Senate is working to establish guidelines and procedures for protecting academic freedom and classroom speech. We are planning to dedicate the Spring Division Meeting on April 7 to discussion of the recommendations for policies, frameworks, or processes that emerge from the work of our Academic Freedom Committee and the Task Force on Academic Freedom, Free Speech, and Campus Climate. Following that meeting, we have invited the administration to partner with us through a joint Senate-Administration working group to focus on implementation of our recommendations. I expect that group will complete its work during the summer.

Next, I want to mention the prospects of labor disruptions later this semester. As you may have heard, UAW members are holding a strike authorization vote next week, but they have also agreed to an extension of the graduate student employee collective bargaining agreement (during which there is a no-strike agreement) through the end of February. While there isn't certainty surrounding the prospects of instructional disruption, we need to be prepared for a range of scenarios. Instructors and Department Chairs, please ensure that a faculty member has access to all course materials for each course, including assignments, exams, and gradesheets.

Finally, I want to revisit a topic I raised in my December newsletter, which is the process by which members are elected to Divisional Council (DIVCO) and the Committee on Committees (COMS). As I outlined then, these are two very important committees that shape the Senate's relationships with the faculty and the administration. If any of you are interested in participating, I would encourage you to raise your hand (link below); the deadline for submitting a nomination (including self-nominations) is February 17, so there is still time. And, as I noted in December, regardless of whether you choose to run or not, please remember to vote! More reminders of that will be coming once we open the voting window.

I look forward to connecting with many of you in the coming month. We are starting up our junior faculty lunches again, and the first meeting of the Council of Faculty Chairs is in a couple of weeks. My Senate chair *Zoom* office hours will be on February 6, 20, and 27 (see details below). Until next month!

-Mark Stacey
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

Links:

- Academic Senate Elections Information
- Online nominating petition
- Academic Senate Office hours (*Zoom*links):
    - Friday, February 6, 2:00-3:30pm
    - Friday, February 20, 2:00-3:30pm
    - Friday, February 27, 2:00-3:30pm

This message was sent to all members of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate.