



Academic Senate Chair - Berkeley Division

Dear Colleagues,

Before I turn to the focal issue of my newsletter this month, I want to highlight the fact that Academic Senate elections for next year are now open! We have outstanding slates of candidates for both the Committee on Committees (COMS) and Divisional Council (DIVCO). The link to vote is included below, which will take you to the Senate elections page and information on each of the candidates. Voting will be open until March 20, but I would encourage you to go cast your ballot right now while you are thinking about it - don't worry, this message will still be here when you come back.

The key issue I want to focus on this month is the status of negotiations with the United Automobile Workers (UAW). As I am sure you are aware, UAW members voted last month to authorize a strike. Further, the contract for the Graduate Student Researchers (GSRs) and Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) expired at the end of February, and the "no strike" restriction expired with it. Negotiations and mediation are continuing this month, but the possibility of a strike is ever-present. The situation is fluid, and I want to make you aware of resources available from our campus and our sister campuses - please see the links below, including a guidance website from UC Santa Barbara (UCSB) and an FAQ being developed by our campus.

I will conclude by noting that I held the first meeting of the "Academic Senate Faculty Council" (the group formerly known as the "Council of Faculty Chairs"), which includes a representative from each school or college on our campus. I found the discussion informative and energizing, and I look forward to formalizing this organization later this spring. Additionally, our fourth junior faculty lunch is coming up later this month.

Unfortunately, because of various scheduling conflicts, I will only be able to hold one Senate Zoom office hour session this month, on March 13 from 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Best,

Mark Stacey

Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

Links:

- [Link to vote](#)
- [List of candidates, nominators, and statements](#)

- [UCSB: Strike Guidance and Continuity Resources](#)
- [UCB: Strike Information for Campus \(FAQs\)](#)

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

