



Academic Senate Chair - Berkeley Division

Dear Colleagues,

I am honored to step into the role of Academic Senate Division chair for the coming year. Before looking ahead, I would like to thank and congratulate Amani Nuru-Jeter for her outstanding leadership this past year - I am both intimidated and inspired to be following her. As I get started this year, I am very pleased to be able to partner with Thomas Philip in his role as Senate Vice Chair - his thoughtful leadership and counsel has already been impactful just one week in. Thank you, Thomas, for your willingness to serve the faculty in this role.



Academic Senate retreat - August 2025

Last week, the Academic Senate held the first, of what I hope will be an annual, strategic planning retreat. Nearly 100 faculty from across campus participated in a day of deliberation and discussion to develop and prioritize actions for the Senate and its committees to pursue in the coming year. Obviously, federal actions towards higher education broadly, and UC specifically, were top of mind for all of us, and a top priority is to preserve and ensure the role of the Academic Senate in protecting the faculty and our academic freedoms.

Other broad priorities identified for the Senate to address include rebuilding public trust and investment in higher education and UC, and navigating the disruptions that AI is creating in all aspects of our academic mission. In addition, themes that emerged in our discussions that cut across multiple Senate committees included the renegotiation and implementation of GSI and GSR contracts with implications for both graduate and

implementation of GSI and GSR contracts, with implications for both graduate and undergraduate education, funding vulnerabilities for faculty doing research on topics of importance that have had their funding disrupted, and inefficiencies and delays in campus processes, including those that have been evident in faculty merit and promotion cases. Needless to say, we have a lot of important issues on which we hope to make progress.

As we work on these wide-ranging priorities, I want to ensure that we are hearing from all faculty voices on campus. Towards that end, I am hosting a series of Junior Faculty lunches to provide an opportunity for Assistant Professors to meet with Thomas and me in an informal setting, discuss Senate activities, and raise any questions or concerns that they may have. If you are an Assistant Professor and are interested in joining one of these sessions, please watch for a follow-up communication regarding sign-ups.

Additionally, and more broadly, I will be holding *Zoom* office hours on Friday afternoons (when my schedule permits) for any faculty member to drop into in order to discuss issues on campus as they would like. This month, the dates and times of these sessions will be: September 5 and 12 from 3:00-4:00pm and September 19 and 26 from 2:00-3:30pm (this will hopefully become the standard time going forward). Here is the [Zoom link](#) for my office hours.

I look forward to working with all of you, and on your behalf.

Sincerely,
Mark Stacey
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

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

