

UC Berkeley



Academic Senate Chair - Berkeley Division

Dear Colleagues,

This month, the Academic Senate continued its advocacy to protect our academic freedom through systemwide action in the Academic Council (the systemwide equivalent of our Divisional Council, DIVCO). First, the Academic Council issued a statement to President Milliken regarding any consideration of an agreement with the federal government that would undermine our academic freedom and autonomy (linked below). President Milliken responded in mid-October with a brief statement (linked below) that affirmed both his and the Board of Regents' commitment to protecting these shared values. Second, ongoing discussions at Academic Council regarding the release of unredacted incident files motivated an additional statement (also linked below). The statement calls on the UC Office of the President (UCOP) and Board of Regents to not treat the disclosure of personally identifiable information as a standard procedural matter, irrespective of pre-existing agreements or interpretations of federal compliance requirements.

One of my goals for these newsletters is to aggregate communications and resources to be shared in order to not overload your inboxes, and to be able to provide context. Towards that end, this month I would like to share with you a series of documents that have been produced at UCOP and in the Systemwide Academic Senate. Three documents are linked below, and were also shared by our Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost (EVCP) in a *Calmessage* last week. While there was Berkeley representation on the groups developing most of these documents, I want to be clear that these were not produced by the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate. The details on these documents are as follows:

- UCAD (UC Adaptations to Disruptions) Interim Report: This report was produced by the systemwide Academic Senate in spring-summer of 2025, and was intended to outline possible options for academic actions and adjustments in response to external funding disruptions. DIVCO review of this document highlighted several concerns, perhaps most notably the conflation of responding to near-term crises and pursuing long-term structural change, as well as a lack of clarity regarding the role that campuses must play in oversight of academic programs. The review period for this document extends until December 1, 2025, and you are all welcome to submit comments to AcademicSenateUCAD@ucop.edu. Please copy me (aschair@berkeley.edu) on any submissions to this UCOP email address so that I am aware of comments emerging from our campus and can ensure that they are given due consideration.
- The Future of Doctoral Programs at the University of California: This report was produced by a joint Systemwide Administration-Senate working group last year, although the work was done following the prior labor negotiations and was not responsive to the current political moment. No formal mechanism for campus-level feedback or review was provided, although our senate committees that reviewed it raised a number of concerns, including many related centralized oversight and associated standardization, as well as risks posed by how some of the content was communicated. I welcome any feedback you wish to share on this report, which can be directed to aschair@berkeley.edu and, although not specified by UCOP, I would assume that you could also submit feedback using the same email address as for the UCAD report given above.
- UCAD+ Implementation Charge and Membership: The third and final of these documents was produced by the UC Provost based on the first two documents and outlines a systemwide initiative to create implementation plans for the ideas developed in them. This document was shared by the UC Provost with campus EVCPs on October 25, and with campus Senate Chairs on October 28. The release of this document prior to the completion of the review period for the UCAD Interim Report raises questions about the role of senate review and shared governance in UCOP decision-making, and UC Campus Senate Chairs are advocating for a modification to the UCAD+ timeline that has been developed by UCOP so that deliberation and review could be successfully completed. While these discussions are ongoing, you are welcome to submit comments regarding UCAD+ to the same email address as mentioned above.

A tricky thing with a monthly newsletter is striking the balance between over-focusing on an immediate issue and being tone-deaf by not highlighting it. Having said that, I believe the very recent news regarding the cancellation of the UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP) Hiring Incentive by UCOP is important to include here. This news was as much of a surprise to me as it was to all of you when I learned of it during the last week. This is another issue that the UC Campus Senate Chairs are raising with

systemwide leadership, and the perspectives that many of you have shared with our UC leaders (thank you for copying me on those messages), and to me directly, are shaping that work. I don't know as of today what the outcome of these discussions will be, but I understand the importance of the hiring incentive and the urgency of addressing this decision by UCOP.

Internally, the Academic Senate is working to address a variety of issues of importance to the faculty. Ongoing and upcoming activities include ensuring faculty perspectives are present in this year's labor negotiations, addressing increasing enrollment pressures and impacted classes and majors, developing principles that can guide the intersection of instruction and GenAI, addressing delays in faculty merit and promotion cases, and improving coordination across Academic Senate committees.

Looking ahead, I am prioritizing efforts to better engage with faculty across campus. I thoroughly enjoyed the first Junior Faculty Lunch this past month and look forward to another in November. I am working on setting up other opportunities for direct engagement, and I hope to have more to report in my December newsletter. In the meantime, my *Zoom* office hours will be November 14 and 21 from 2:00-3:30 (link below), and I can always be reached at aschair@berkeley.edu.

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

Links:

- [Systemwide Academic Council Statement from the UC Academic Council Regarding any Potential Agreement Between the University and the Federal Government](#) (dated 10/3/2025)
 - [President Milliken's response to the Statement](#) (dated 10/16/2025)
- [Statement from the UC Academic Council Regarding the University's Disclosures of Personally Identifiable Information \(PII\)](#) (dated 10/28/2025)
- Links regarding systemwide UCAD efforts:
 - [Interim Report and Recommendations of the Systemwide Academic Senate Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions \(UCAD\)](#)
 - [The Future of Doctoral Programs at the University of California report](#)
 - [Systemwide Academic Senate-Administration Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions \(UCAD Plus\)](#) and [Charge document to UCAD Plus](#)
 - Submit comments to AcademicSenateUCAD@ucop.edu, with a copy to aschair@berkeley.edu
- Office hours (*Zoom* links):
 - [Friday, November 14, 2:00-3:30pm](#)

- [Friday, November 21, 2:00-3:30pm](#)
- **UCDC applications** for visiting faculty
 - The UC Washington Program (UCDC) is now accepting applications for visiting faculty teaching positions for the 2026–27 academic year. Each term, over 200 UC undergraduates live, study, and intern in Washington, DC, and the program relies on UC Academic Senate faculty to provide courses that enrich their academic and professional experiences.
 - Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning November 15, 2025.
 - Full details and the application form are available [here](#).

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

