

UC Berkeley



Academic Senate Chair - Berkeley Division

Greetings, Colleagues! Happy December.

This past month, the Academic Senate has continued its advocacy with UC Office of the President (UCOP) on a wide range of issues, including the UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP) Hiring Incentive, the proposed Regental policy change on extramural speech, ongoing federal investigations, and many more.

But, I would like to dedicate most of this month's newsletter to looking ahead to the future of the Senate. Yes, it is that time of the year when you will be asked to raise your hand for Senate service, and I would like to encourage you all to consider it. It is critical to the success of the Senate that our committees include representation from all parts of campus, so please consider your interests and how they may align with one of our committees. I include a link to descriptions of the Academic Senate and our committees below.

I would like to highlight two committees, Divisional Council (DIVCO) and the Committee on Committees (COMS), for which membership is determined by election. DIVCO is the primary decision-making body for the Academic Senate; we meet for 2 hours every-other-week and take up issues that affect faculty, staff and students across all aspects of our academic mission. It is important and impactful work, and is made up of elected members and chairs of several other Senate committees. Each year, 3 new members are elected to DIVCO. Membership in COMS is also determined by election. This committee plays a very important role in the Senate and on campus more broadly, as they determine membership on other Senate committees, Senate committee chairs, and other roles as requested by administration. There are 4 seats on COMS that are open for election each

year. If either DIVCO or COMS is of interest to you, I would strongly encourage you to run for election to them (and/or encourage colleagues who might be a good fit for either committee to run). And, of course, please vote! Broad participation in those elections is the best way to ensure that the Senate represents views from all across campus.

Towards the goal of creating better connections between the Academic Senate and the faculty broadly, I held a second Junior Faculty Lunch this past month, which was, once again, very informative and rewarding. For those of you who did not get selected for the lunches this fall, please watch for communication in January regarding Spring lunch opportunities. My Senate office hours for December will be held on December 5 and 12 from 2:00-3:30 pm (link and details included below). Additionally, the Academic Senate has recently launched an “Issue Tracker”, linked below, to provide real-time updates on the status of proposals, policies, or other issues under review by the Senate. I continue to work on establishing new structures and processes to better connect the Senate with all of you, and I hope to have more initiatives to share early in 2026.

Finally, I will close with best wishes to all of you as you complete the Fall Semester and have some time for rest and recovery. I look forward to connecting with you all in the new year.

Best,

-Mark Stacey

Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

Links:

- [Academic Senate Committee Descriptions](#)
- [The Berkeley Academic Senate Video](#)
- [Academic Senate Elections Information](#)
- [Issues Under Review Tracker](#)
- Academic Senate Office hours (*Zoom* links):
 - [Friday, December 5, 2:00-3:30pm](#)
 - [Friday, December 12, 2:00-3:30pm](#)

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

