

February 11, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

The time for the first meeting of winter quarter of the Santa Cruz Division of the Academic Senate meeting is at hand—Wednesday, February 18 at 2:30 p.m. at the **Stevenson Event Center** (please note the location change).

Aficionados of Senate meeting calls (if there are any) might raise eyebrows at the usage of the word “first” in the last sentence. And yes, the implication is that we may well have a second meeting in winter quarter. Why? Because we have a **lot** of business to do, particularly with respect to the General Education Reform Proposals that are emerging from our creative and hard-working Committee on Educational Policy. The first part of these, concerned with writing and a new Disciplinary Communications requirement, will be put in front of the Senate for our discussion and vote at THIS meeting ([click here to view the full call](#)). These proposed changes in our General Education system would have a major impact on writing instruction on the campus, and have been the subject of intense discussion and consultation---and these discussions have admirably reflected the faculty’s core responsibility for designing and offering the best possible curricula for our students. This meeting is your opportunity to have your voice be heard (or, hopefully, given the amount of consultation that’s occurred, be heard again) on these changes.

Another reason to come: our campus leadership will surely give an update on the implications of our state budget (or lack thereof) for the University of California and UCSC in particular. I hardly need to point out that the budgetary landscape is of enormous concern, and its effects will continue to impact all of us--at the least, you are likely to be updated on the latest developments at a system-wide and local level. I find it hard to put a positive spin on this topic, beyond observing that the hazards that one knows and understands are often less daunting than the hazards that one suspects or that are rumored. If you come to the meeting, you’ll hopefully find out what is actually known (and, as importantly, not known) about our shifting budget...

Please come. I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Quentin Williams".

Quentin Williams, Chair
Academic Senate