

October 30, 2014

Academic Senate
Santa Cruz Division

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to encourage you to join us for the first meeting of the Academic Senate, which will be held on Friday, November 7, 2014, from 2:30-5 p.m. at the Colleges 9&10 Multipurpose Room. It will be followed by a reception hosted by the Chancellor and the Senate. The agenda may be viewed at:

senate.ucsc.edu/senate-meetings/agendas-minutes/2014-november-7-senate-meeting/index.html

Several items of real interest and significance figure in the agenda:

- In his announcements, Chancellor Blumenthal will explain his current thinking about UCSC presence in Silicon Valley
- The Senate Executive Committee has circulated a set of [Guiding Principles for Graduate Growth](#). UCOP has put forward extra funds for aspirational graduate growth on our campus, but there has not been a full Senate discussion yet. These principles are intended to make such a conversation possible. One key recommendation is that a joint Senate-Administration task force be established to move quickly in moving forward. Our discussion on November 7 can be instrumental in shaping the membership of and charge to that task force. Please read the Guiding Principles (included in the agenda) and come ready to participate in this important discussion.
- The Committee on Teaching has been troubled by dwindling support for instructional improvement, most recently by the discontinuation of the Excellence in Teaching awards. A position paper, "[Reinvesting in Teaching at UCSC](#)," is included in the agenda materials. Please read this important analysis and come prepared to help advise COT on future steps.

Looking forward to seeing you on Friday, November 7th!

Sincerely,



Don Brenneis, Chair
Academic Senate
Santa Cruz Division