

May 21, 2015

Academic Senate
Santa Cruz Division

Dear Colleagues,

The final meeting of the Academic Senate this year is Friday, May 29th, from 2:30-5:00 p.m. at the Stevenson Event Center. A reception follows the meeting. View the agenda here - <http://senate.ucsc.edu/senate-meetings/agendas-minutes/2014-2015/2015-may-29-meeting/index.html>.

The Committee on Teaching (COT) has developed a proposal to establish a Center for the Advancement of Teaching. This conversation started with COT's fall quarter reporting on the inadequacy of teaching support at UCSC. After careful study and consultation, COT forwarded to EVC Galloway a proposal for a Center that is responsive to instructor needs. The EVC's decision to fund it is pending so this is a pivotal point for the initiative and it is critically important that you come to the meeting, hear COT's current report and voice your views on the importance of teaching support.

Committee on Faculty Welfare's report focusing on salary and benefits is very timely given the Governor's revised budget which calls for a new tier of benefits that could have profound effects for UC's future employee's relations to the UC Retirement System. Given our faculty demographics, UCSC is likely to hire over 100 new faculty in the next five years. The benefits we offer these new hires are an important attraction, and play a key role in retaining faculty.

Committee on International Education's reports give an update on emerging policies for international engagement. Under "New Business" please have a look at a resolution calling for UC's divestment in fossil fuels which your colleagues will move for a vote.

This spring quarter meeting also provides an opportunity to celebrate. This agenda offers the Faculty Research Lecture nomination and the slate of faculty who will serve on Senate committees next year. The celebration can continue at the reception that follows immediately after adjournment.

I look forward to seeing you on Friday, May 29th.

Sincerely,



Don Brenneis, Chair
Academic Senate
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