

February 12, 2018

Academic Senate
Santa Cruz Division

Dear Colleagues,

I write to invite you to the February 21st Academic Senate meeting, 2:30 pm at the Stevenson Event Center. The agenda may be reviewed at: <http://senate.ucsc.edu/senate-meetings/agendas-minutes/2017-2018/2018-February-21-Meeting/index.html>

This meeting will be devoted primarily to faculty questions and an interactive discussion with Chancellor Blumenthal and CP/EVC Marlene Tromp about the [Long Range Development Plan](#) (LRDP) and the [Strategic Academic Plan](#) (SAP). Although separate processes, both initiatives are deserving of broad faculty input, and we have heard from many of you that you have questions. I believe that the campus is best served when the Senate can voice its opinions and debate openly in the public forum that Senate meetings represent.

The LRDP is a land use plan that assesses the environmental impacts and related mitigations for different growth scenarios. The outer enrollment envelope the Chancellor has asked the LRDP Planning Committee to consider is 28,000 by the year 2040. [According to the Chancellor](#), this number does not “come out of thin air” but is based on a combination of statewide growth, legislative and systemwide enrollment pressures, and an ongoing commitment to access and social justice. Because the LRDP touches on many issues that affect the broader Santa Cruz community--such as water use, traffic, and housing-- the LRDP co-chairs, Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Services, Sarah Latham, and Senate Vice Chair, Kimberly Lau, have consulted widely across campus and are also consulting with the Santa Cruz community and city leaders.

The SAP is being led by the CP/EVC Marlene Tromp and Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Martin Berger, and they have sent out [six updates](#) to the campus community on the progress of the SAP. To date, the SAP team has had interviews with numerous campus leaders, faculty, staff, and students; distributed a Faculty Insight survey; and held eight interactive forums for these constituents. The data that were collected have identified [Thematic Academic Groups](#) that will help facilitate faculty proposals about collaborative research and teaching across departments and divisions. The Senate, deans, SAP committees, and the broader campus community will comment on these proposals, and the CP/EVC will identify academic priorities based on the proposals and comments.

The majority of the February 21 meeting has been dedicated to the discussion of these important topics. We hope everyone can attend and bring questions about the goals, the process, and related resources.

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday February 21st,

Ólöf Einarsdóttir, Chair



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