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Assembly of the Academic Senate  
Academic Council  
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## UC MERCED SENATE MEMBERS

Dear Colleagues,

The Senate faculty at Merced now constitutes the tenth division of the University of California Academic Senate! Earlier today, the Academic Council took the final action needed to establish the Merced Division of the Academic Senate. I would like to extend a warm welcome to you now as equal and independent partners in shared governance within the University of California.

As you may recall, last month, the Academic Assembly unanimously approved the establishment of the Merced Division, to take effect when the Academic Council certifies that there is an adequate funding plan for the division. Based upon the unanimous endorsement of the nascent Merced Divisional Council, the Academic Council accepted the funding plan offered by Executive Vice Chancellor David Ashley and endorsed by Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey. While funds for divisional operations at UCM will remain limited during the next few years, I am confident that both the guiding principles offered by EVC Ashley aimed at ensuring that the division is a "Strong, Capable and Engaged Partner in Shared Governance" and the Academic Council's "*Framework for Establishing a Senate Operation*" will provide the basis under which appropriate operational funds will be justified.

I realize that you will face many challenges as you begin to operate a division just as opening day approaches. Yet, you have already taken on most of the duties of the Academic Senate, and with today's decision, you have become masters of your own fate. I am confident that this fate will include a distinguished, productive, and impressive future for the Merced campus.

Fiat Lux,

George Blumenthal, Chair  
UC Systemwide Academic Senate

Copy: Members of the UCM Task Force  
Members of the UCM CAP  
Members of the Academic Council  
President Robert Dynes  
Provost M.R.C. Greenwood