

2021 Recipients of the Academic Council Chairs Award for Mid-Career Leadership

At its May 26, 2021, meeting, the Academic Council voted unanimously to honor Professor Tara Javidi of UC San Diego and Professor Steven Cheung of UC San Francisco with the 2021 Academic Council Chairs Award for Mid-Career Leadership. This award was created in 2019 to honor individuals whose records demonstrate an exceptional ability to work effectively across University constituents and who show promise for further service to the Senate. Nominations for the award are made through the Divisions to UCOC. UCOC, in turn, submits two nominees to the Academic Council, which may select one or both of the nominees.

Tara Javidi



Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Dr. Tara Javidi came to UCSD in 2005. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 2010 and to Professor in 2016.

Professor Javidi has demonstrated a deep and sustained commitment to the San Diego campus and the UCSD Academic Senate, serving in various roles throughout the years. She is currently vice chair of the UCSD Academic Senate, and in that capacity she serves on Senate Council, Senate Administration Council, and Representative Assembly. As UCSD vice chair, Professor Javidi is actively helping the San Diego campus

navigate the myriad issues around the return to in-person instruction in fall 2021 ("Return to Learn") and UCSD's policies for handling the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019-20, Professor Javidi served as the UCSD Divisional Representative to the Assembly of the Academic Senate and as primary representative to the UCSD Representative Assembly. In 2018, she was a key member on a search committee for the dean of the Rady School of Management at UCSD. In 2017, she served on the review committee of the Mathematics Department. In 2016, she chaired the review committee for the Department of Psychology. In the 2014-2015 academic year, she served on the UCSD Undergraduate Council. She has served on various campus-wide award and fellowship committees, and on the UCOP systemwide review panel for the UC Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship Program. In each of these capacities, she transcended representation of her Department and Division, working for the benefit of faculty and students across the UCSD campus.

Professor Javidi's scholarship focuses on the role of machine learning in society and the emerging challenges and opportunities associated with computing and security. She is the Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Center for Machine-Integrated Computing and Security (MICS), where her vision and leadership has helped to attract tremendous attention from industry and government agencies. MICS is clearly one of the most important new Agile Centers founded within the Jacobs School of Engineering.

Professor Javidi has also shown an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. As the chair of the Committee on Diversity and Equity in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), she is in the process of replicating successful models of outreach/retention/recruitment in ECE. Professor

Javidi initiated an active outreach to women and URM faculty candidates across the country, which resulted in an unprecedented number of URM faculty recruited to the department. She reached out to Howard University in an effort to align the department with President Napolitano's UC-HBCU initiatives, and participated in the UC President Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP) as a reviewer and postdoctoral mentor.

Dr. Javidi has worked to broaden participation in STEM among women and URM students. She received the UC San Diego Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action and Diversity Award in recognition for her commitment, efforts, and contributions to diversity on campus. She was approached by leaders of National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) student chapters at Jacobs School of Engineering (JSOE) for statistics on the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority students in engineering at UCSD. As a result, she volunteered in various roles on the JSOE Diversity Advisory Council (DAC) instated by the dean. DAC played an important role in establishing the IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Excellence, and Advancement) Student Service Center whose mission is to create a supportive, inclusive, and student-centered services that is welcoming to all students, including those from URM or under-served communities. She is currently on the IDEA Student Center Executive Advisory Committee.

Professor Javidi not only shines in her service at the Senate level, but she also has had a huge impact on UCSD's and JSOE's efforts in improving diversity overall, and in STEM specifically, with impressive results in terms of URM faculty hired, retained, and an increase in a number of graduate and undergraduate URM students involved in research across STEM.

Steven W. Cheung, M.D.



UC San Francisco Professor of Otolaryngology Steven W. Cheung embodies the values of shared governance and service on the UCSF campus, where he is currently vice chair of the UCSF Senate Division. His broad Senate committee experience includes research, academic planning, budget, and faculty welfare. He is an accomplished teacher and researcher, and has demonstrated a commitment to diversity and gender equity throughout his career, perhaps owing to his own immigrant background.

Dr. Cheung is a beneficiary of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. His grandfather came from Hong Kong and became a naturalized US citizen through military service. Following passage of the Act, he successfully petitioned for the Cheung family's emigration to New York City. Professor Cheung spent his formative years in the lower east side of Manhattan, working at odd jobs in plumbing, dishwashing, and garment bagging to make money. He attended Dartmouth College and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, where he focused on auditory neuroscience and clinical Ear, Nose, and Throat (Otolaryngology). At UCSF, he completed an internship, a residency, a clinical fellowship in skull base surgery, and a research fellowship in neurophysiology.

He joined the UCSF faculty in 1994 and served as Chief of Otorhinolaryngology at the San Francisco VA from 1997 to 2003 before moving to UC Health in 2005 and specializing in hearing disorders and skull base surgery. His collaborations with Neurosurgery have contributed to advances in the treatment of complex tumors and mitigation of functional disorders.

Professor Cheung has an extensive record of service on the UCSF campus and at the systemwide level. He served as chair of the UCSF Committee on Academic Planning and Budget, Committee on Committees, and Faculty Welfare. He has also served as a member of the University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB) and the Assembly of the Academic Senate, as well as on a Chancellor Stewardship Review committee and the UC Presidential Search committee. As vice chair of the UCSF division, he has provided leadership and coordination of standing committees, to express actionable faculty aspirations on budget allocation, campus space planning, child and dependent care, COVID recovery, information privacy and security, research space management, salary support for non-tenure track faculty, and diversity, equity and inclusion to the Chancellor.

Dr. Cheung has also worked to reinvigorate Senate committees within the San Francisco Division. Especially in his capacity as the Committee on Committees chair, Professor Cheung identified committees that needed revitalization and sought out faculty members to serve as members or in leadership positions. In one case, Dr. Cheung stepped in to chair the Faculty Welfare Committee, and it is largely due to his leadership and mentorship that this committee is today an effective force for shared governance at UCSF.

Dr. Cheung has also played a formative role on UCSF's Space Committee, which has benefited from Dr. Cheung's wise counsel. Professor Cheung has often served as a systemwide alternate at both the Assembly of the Academic Senate and the Academic Council.

Dr. Cheung has prioritized teaching and mentoring in his career and has actively and consistently supported women and underrepresented residents and faculty by creating research and networking opportunities and facilitating access to leadership positions. During his time on UCSF's CoC he worked to ensure that local standing committees consistently reflected a broad ethnic and gender diversity. His input on the selection of diverse representatives to systemwide Senate committees and task forces was also invaluable during this time.

As Divisional Chair in fall 2021, he will have primary responsibility to advocate for UCSF interests to the systemwide Academic Senate, working toward the common goal of uniform excellence and equity in all corners of the University. Dr. Cheung has been a rising star locally within the UCSF Senate, and promises to make similar contributions at the systemwide Academic Senate in the coming years.

More:

[2019 Inaugural Mid-Career Leadership Awardees](#)