

2023 Recipients of the Academic Council Chairs Award for Mid-Career Leadership

At its March 29, 2023, meeting, the Academic Council voted unanimously to honor Professor Katheryn Russ of UC Davis and Professor Daniel Widener of UC San Diego with the 2023 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 nominees.

Katheryn Russ (UC Davis)



Katheryn (Kadee) Russ is professor and chair of economics at UC Davis and the vice chair of the Davis division of the Academic Senate. Her scholarship focuses on open-economy macroeconomics and international trade policy.

Professor Russ started her Senate service at UC Davis in 2017 and has already held several leadership positions on that campus, including chair of the Senate General Education Committee, chair of the Undergraduate Council, and member of the Committee on Courses of Instruction and the representative Assembly. Currently she also advises the campus Planning and Budget Committee. At the systemwide level, she served on the University Committee on Educational Policy, including as its vice chair in 2021-22. In recognition of her outstanding service, she was awarded the UC Davis Academic Senate Faculty Distinguished Scholarly Public Service Award in 2020.

Professor Russ's exemplary leadership skills and her ability to work with different communities productively to build consensus has contributed substantially to the effectiveness of the Academic Senate and UC's system of shared governance. She continues to boldly confront challenges and has accepted more responsibility at every turn. Her rapid progression and increasing responsibilities within the Senate demonstrate her exceptional leadership capabilities and dedication. The UC Davis Senate and systemwide Senate look forward to continued contributions from this rising star in the years ahead.

Daniel Widener (UC San Diego)



Daniel Widener is an associate professor of history at UC San Diego. His scholarship is on modern American history, particularly expressive culture and political radicalism. He is one of the most respected voices for diverse faculty and students on campus, known for his wise diplomacy and knowledge of the structure and workings of the university.

Professor Widener has an impressive record of major service contributions to the San Diego campus and the UC system on a wide range of Senate committees. At UCSD, he served as chair of the Committee on Diversity and Equity, member of the Senate Committee on Admissions, and member of the Committee on Committees. At the systemwide

level, he served as the UCSD representative to the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), chaired the University Committee on Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Equity, and served on the BOARS Ethnic Studies A-H Working Group. He also served on the UC Press Editorial Board, and since 2014 has reviewed applicants to the UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program.

Professor Widener was the inaugural director of the African American Studies Program and currently directs the Institute of Arts and Humanities at his home campus. Recently, he was the faculty director of the PATH/Mellon Program, where he coordinated collaborations between UCSD and San Diego area community colleges to support community college students seeking transfer to UCSD.

More:

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