

We find ourselves in a time few of us could have anticipated, and I want to share the priorities I believe are most critical now and that will guide me if I have the privilege to serve.

1. Defending Science and the University

Science and higher education are under direct political and cultural attack. We must respond by building the broadest possible coalition—political, legal, and institutional—well beyond our campus to defend science and the autonomy, integrity, and public mission of the university.

2. Reaffirming Shared Governance

UC's tripartite system of shared governance—among faculty, regents, and administration—has been strained in recent years. Yet now, more than ever, we need unity and mutual respect among its three parts. Without faculty as equal partners in decision-making, our institution will not have the strength or legitimacy to endure.

3. Protecting Our Core Values

At their foundation, science and higher education are moral endeavors. They are grounded in core values: curiosity, reason, respect for evidence, academic freedom, tolerance, transparency, diversity, equity, inclusion, community, and trust. These values are not negotiable — they are essential.

4. Upholding Fundamental Rights

We must safeguard the rights to free expression, data privacy, and due process for everyone in our community — students and colleagues alike, both domestic and international.

I hope to earn your vote and the opportunity to represent and serve our community in this important role.

AKOS RONA-TAS

Professor, Sociology

I joined UC San Diego in 1989, and I am Professor of Sociology and also founding faculty of the Halicioğlu Data Science Institute. For many years, I was senior research associate at INRA, Paris, and I have been visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne, Germany. I am Past President of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics and the current Chief Editor of the *Socio-Economic Review*.

My publications include *The Great Surprise of the Small Transformation: Demise of Communism and Rise of the Private Sector in Hungary* (University of Michigan Press), and *Plastic Money: Constructing Markets for Credit Cards in Eight Postcommunist Countries* (Stanford University Press), co-authored with Alya Guseva. I have worked on topics including post-communist transitions, small entrepreneurship, consumer credit, payment systems, and machine learning for text analysis. My work has appeared in journals such as *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Theory and Society*, *Sociological Methods and Research*, *Social Science Research*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Critical Sociology*, and others, as well as in numerous edited volumes.

Currently, my research focuses on how institutions manage uncertainty and produce predictions, specifically in the areas of credit assessment, college admissions, criminal justice, and scientific risk management.

Over my thirty-six years at UC San Diego, I've served the campus in multiple roles. I chaired the Department of Sociology, served on several systemwide task forces including the UC Commission on the Future (Working Group on Access and Affordability), and have been the campus representative to the systemwide Academic Senate's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) on multiple occasions. On campus, I have chaired the Committee on Admissions, served on the Committee on Committees, and I was the co-director of the International Institute. I was also one of the initiators of the Council of Chairs.

I currently serve as Chair of Admissions and co-chair of the Senate-Administration Working Group on Admissions, which is addressing the alarming decline in math, reading, and writing skills among incoming students.