

## Investigating Change: Understanding the Administrator Perspective on the UC System Tenure-Track Lecturer Position

Brian Sato, PhD

Associate Professor, School of Biological Sciences  
UC Irvine

Wednesday, February 6, 2019  
12:00 – 1:15 pm, Education 2010

**Abstract:** A nationwide push to improve undergraduate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education has been motivated by a lack of diversity in STEM programs and the variance in quality in the undergraduate classroom. In response to these concerns, discipline-based education research (DBER) fields have identified interventions aimed at improving STEM education, however, implementation of these practices has yet to occur on a larger scale. One potential mechanism to generate institutional change in regard to teaching practices is the use of change agents within a department who possess both discipline-specific and teaching expertise, such as the Lecturer with Security of Employment position within the UC system. In this talk, I will present data we have collected from 27 semi-structured interviews of STEM deans, department chairs, and LSOE hiring committee chairs across three UC campuses. Using these data, we aim to answer the following questions:

- (1) What are the expectations administrators hold of tenure-track teaching faculty at research-intensive institutions?
- (2) What is the perceived impact of tenure-track teaching faculty on research-focused institutions?
- (3) What institutional issues are identified in regard to the tenure-track teaching faculty position?



**Bio:** Brian Sato, Ph.D., is an Associate Teaching Professor in Molecular Biology *and* Biochemistry. His research involves investigating how students learn and ways to improve the classroom experience. In addition to his teaching obligations, Sato has organized several regional and national STEM conferences aimed at disseminating evidence-based teaching practices including meetings for the Association for Biology Laboratory Education, Project Kaleidoscope, and a UC-wide STEM Education Consortium that he co-founded. Sato has been fascinated by biology since early in his academic career. He majored in molecular and cell biology at UC Berkeley, and while initially pre-med, decided to go to graduate school after realizing the joys of the laboratory experience. He obtained his Ph.D. in cell biology from UC San Diego, and after completing his thesis, Professor Sato worked as a postdoctoral scholar and instructor at UC San Diego before joining the Biological Sciences School.