

UC ANR Town Hall
Questions and Answers

Category	Question	Answer
Leadership Update	Am I hearing correctly that we are trying to get COLAs from the state? That is so necessary especially for the lowest paid people in the org. Would love to see it.	Answered live
Leadership Update	Any updates about merit raises for 2021-2022?	Merits increases have been presented to the UC Regents. We expect approval in the next meetings. The State will also have a right of approval via its funding powers. So, stay tuned a little longer.
Photo contest	What kinds of photos?	Anything!
Strategic Element	Peggy, how do you navigate power imbalances in these tough conversations? E.g. I'm much younger than many of my clientele, so I feel automatically that I am expected to be "respectful of my elders" (and in some ways that may mean, to agree with them).	Answered live
Strategic Element	How do you have a discussion about the validity of science when the other person doesn't trust the source of information?	Answered live
Strategic Element	I'm curious, do you ever encounter people who are critical of the economic consequences of GMO crops (e.g., farmers having to continue buying seed over and over and losing their independence with saving seed) or do your conversations mostly center around food safety?	I would love to talk with you in more depth. Lots to say. Yes, I do encounter such people and the conversation is about food safety - but it depends on what socioeconomic group they are in. Frankly in the US there is almost no saving of seed for replanting because the yield it usually very low and there might be disease carry-over. Certainly the issue of dependence on companies providing seed is a concern for some but all hybrids, which are the predominant seed type, are sort of nature's patent since you can't recreate them either and you have to return to buy them again. Write to me at lemauxpg@berkeley.edu if you want to continue asking questions.