Chair's Summary

With my appointment as Senate Chair drawing to a close, I write to give you an account of the Senate's accomplishments in the past year. Before doing so, I would like to thank the over 400 colleagues who engaged in the Senate's activities by serving on standing and ad-hoc committees throughout the past academic year. While a few may have merely treated their appointments as a way to fulfill the “service” requirement, I know for a fact that the vast majority of our colleagues have served valiantly and vigorously, and by doing so have contributed crucially to the welfare of our university.

Here are some of our accomplishments:

Freshman admissions

Following a comprehensive two-year review of our freshman admission policies, procedures, and outcomes, the Admissions, Enrollment and Preparatory Education (AEPE) committee formulated a new freshman admissions policy, which was approved unanimously by the Divisional Council (DIVCO) of the Senate. This is the first major change since our 1997 policy adopted a holistic review of applicants (that is, a review which is not based exclusively on numerical scores). The new policy invites applicants to submit two letters of recommendation, simplifies the scoring system used to rate the applications (“Yes”, “No”, “Possible”), and empowers faculty to make admissions decisions for those in the “Possible” category. Recommendation letters are invaluable for assessing non-cognitive skills (such as persistence, creativity, love of learning) and, thus, are widely used by universities, public and private, to inform their admissions decisions. Likewise, faculty review is the only reliable way to inject discipline-specific wisdom into the admissions process.

While our original plan was to fully implement this new policy with the 2015-16 admissions cycle, there was some concern – unwarranted, in my view – raised at the system-wide level, especially with the immediate adoption of letters of recommendation. This has led us to accept an incremental adoption of recommendation letters for 2015-16, to be followed by full deployment in 2016-17.

During the past year, AEPE also introduced a new athletic admissions policy, which was again unanimously adopted by DIVCO, and which seeks to rebalance the academic and athletic achievements of applicants for student-athletic admission. This new policy is informed by recommendations from the Chancellor's Task Force for Academics and Athletics and by the Senate's firm conviction that our university should never again experience the embarrassment of low graduate rates in any of its varsity sports, but rather become a national leader in redefining the profile of a successful student-athlete. The new policy stipulates that the admissions standards shall be uniform across all varsity sports and that by 2017-18 no less than 80% of student-athlete admissions in each sport will be realized by the same review process as non-athletic admissions. I am heartened by the early impact of the new policy in football, the most visible of our varsity sports, where appreciable strides have been made on the academic
front in the last recruitment season. Similar strides are needed in a few other sports and the Senate should continue to actively encourage their efforts in this direction.

**Undergraduate experience**
Through its leadership team, the Senate played a critical role in the deliberations of the Chancellor's Undergraduate Initiative, whose objective is to devise tangible ways to enhance the undergraduate experience, both in and out of the classroom. In the past year-and-a-half, we have come a long ways in identifying and appreciating our challenges in this arena, as well as in proposing bold and workable steps to address them. I am very hopeful that a public announcement of the Undergraduate Initiative's principal recommendations is forthcoming and that our Chancellor will adopt them and shepherd them to fruition.

In anticipation of the increased emphasis on the undergraduate experience, the Senate established, last spring, a new Undergraduate Council, which has quickly become the voice of the Senate on matters pertaining to the academic and student life affairs of our undergraduates.

**Budget understanding**
Last March, the Senate hosted a budget information session with Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost Claude Steele and Vice-Chancellor for Administration and Finance John Wilton. This session was intended to provide a self-contained introduction to the campus budget for our faculty. I believe that it is important for all of us to become acquainted with our budget circumstances, especially given that we are facing financial challenges and need to be collectively thoughtful on how to confront and resolve them. For this reason I urge you to peruse the [slides](#) from this session. Also, during the 2015 Spring meeting of the division, I invited Vice-Chancellor Wilton to report on a study regarding the size and distribution of administrative staff across campus. This was motivated by my empirical observation that narratives of “administrative bloat” – whether real or imagined – are deeply ingrained in the minds of our constituencies, including many of our most ardent supporters. The data from this study are now available to the Senate and the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) will take the lead in further analyzing them during the new academic year.

**Evaluation of teaching for merit and promotion consideration**
In the past year, DIVCO approved a [recommendation](#) by the Committee on Teaching (COT) to formalize the requirements for the evaluation of faculty teaching for merit and promotion consideration, and bring them in line with the stipulations of the Academic Personnel Manual. The implementation of this recommendation will be overseen by Vice-Provost for the Faculty Janet Broughton and the Committee on Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (BIR).

Respectfully submitted,

Panos Papadopoulos
Chair, 2014-15
Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
List of Activities

The following summarizes Divisional Council (DIVCO) and Divisional activities and actions for 2014-2015, including the date(s) of the action. Please refer to the Divisional Council approved minutes and communications for details.

Academic Programs

- Forwarded comments to the Vice-Provost for the Faculty on a proposal to establish a specialization in Toxicology within the Nutritional Sciences Bachelor of Science degree program. (9/22/14, 10/20/14)
- Forwarded comments on the academic program review of the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering to the Vice-Provost for Strategic Academic and Facilities Planning. (10/20/14)
- Forwarded comments on the academic program review of the Department of Gender and Women’s Studies to the Vice-Provost for Strategic Academic and Facilities Planning. (11/3/14)
- Forwarded comments on the academic program review of the Department of Integrative Biology to the Vice-Provost for Strategic Academic and Facilities Planning. (11/3/14)
- Forwarded comments on the academic program review of the Department of Sociology to the Vice-Provost for Strategic Academic and Facilities Planning. (11/17/14)
- Forwarded comments on A New Strategy for the Arts at Berkeley to the dean of arts and humanities. (12/1/14)
- Forwarded comments on the academic program review of the Department of Nutritional Sciences and Toxicology to the Vice-Provost for Strategic Academic and Facilities Planning. (12/1/14)
- Authorized the Division chair to discuss the coordination of biological science programs with faculty and the Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost. (12/1/14)
- Forwarded comments on the academic program review of the Department of English to the Vice-Provost for Strategic Academic and Facilities Planning. (12/8/14)
- Endorsed a proposal for an Executive Master of Public Affairs and forwarded comments to the Vice-Provost for the Faculty. (12/8/14)
- Forwarded comments on the academic program review of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese to the Vice-Provost for Strategic Academic and Facilities Planning. (1/26/15)
- Endorsed a proposal for the self-supporting online Master of Earthquake Engineering and forwarded comments to the Vice-Provost for the Faculty. (2/9/15, 2/23/15)
- Endorsed a proposal for a certificate in Information and Communication Technologies and Development. (2/23/15)
- Endorsed a proposal to establish a Bachelor of Arts degree program in East Asian Religion, Thought and Culture, and forwarded comments to the Vice-Provost for the Faculty. (3/9/15)
- Forwarded comments on the academic program review of the Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies to the Vice-Provost for Strategic Academic and Facilities Planning. (3/30/15)
- Forwarded comments on the academic program review of the Department of History to the Vice-Provost for Strategic Academic and Facilities Planning. (5/11/15)
- Forwarded comments on the academic program review of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to the Vice-Provost for Strategic Academic and Facilities Planning. (5/11/15)
Policies

• Approved an admissions policy for student athletes. (9/22/14, 10/20/14)
• Endorsed proposed revisions to APM Sections 133-17-g-j; 210-1-c&d; 220-18-b; and 760-30-a to Academic Council. (11/3/14)
• Forwarded comments on proposed revisions to APM 080 (Medical Separation) and 330 (Specialist Series) to Academic Council. (12/1/14)
• Forwarded comments to Academic Council regarding a proposed new UC policy on open access for non-Senate faculty. (12/8/14)
• Forwarded comments to the Chancellor regarding undergraduate enrollment target-setting by the UC Office of the President. (2/9/15)
• Conditionally endorsed a proposed revised presidential policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence and forwarded comments to Academic Council. (3/30/15)
• Approved a revised freshman admissions policy and freshman selection procedures for Fall 2016. (4/13/15)
• Endorsed proposed revisions to APM provisions 360 and 210 (Librarian series) and forwarded comments to Academic Council. (4/27/15)
• Forwarded comments to Academic Council on guidelines for accepting and managing equity in return for access to University facilities and/or services. (4/27/15)

Legislation

• Forwarded endorsement of a proposed amendment of Senate Regulation 682 to Academic Council, regarding the timeframe for filing of advancement to candidacy for a Master's degree. (12/1/14)
• Forwarded endorsement of proposed amendments to S.B. 128.D.2 (Vice Chairs) to Academic Council. (3/30/15)
• Forwarded comments to Academic Council on proposed amendments to Senate Bylaw 182 (University Committee on International Education). (4/27/15)

Enacted Legislation

All items placed on the Fall and Spring Division meeting consent calendars were approved.

• Approved proposed amendments to the Berkeley Division (B.D.) Regulation 402 (Honors in the College of Chemistry) for the Special Orders-Consent Calendar of the fall Division meeting. (9/22/14)
• Approved proposed amendments to B.D. Bylaw 4 (Divisional Council) for the Special Orders-Consent Calendar of the fall Division meeting. (10/20/14)
• Approved proposed amendments to B.D. Bylaw 29 (Academic Freedom) for the Special Orders-Consent Calendar of the fall Division meeting. (10/20/14)
• Approved a new Berkeley Division bylaw for the Undergraduate Council (UGC) for the Special Orders-Consent Calendar of the fall Division meeting (10/20/14)
• Approved the withdrawal of B.D. Bylaw 38 (International Education) for the Special Orders-Consent Calendar of the fall Division meeting. (10/20/14)
• Approved proposed amendments to B.D. Regulation A230 (Special Studies) for the Special Orders-Consent Calendar of the spring Division meeting. (1/26/15, 3/30/15)
• Approved proposed amendments to B.D. Bylaw 4 (Divisional Council) for the Special Orders-Consent Calendar of the spring Division meeting. (3/30/15)

Faculty/University Welfare

• Forwarded comments to Academic Council regarding doctoral student support recommendations. (11/17/14)
• Endorsed and forwarded a letter from the Committee on Library, regarding reinstatement of funding for professional development activities for LAUC-B members, to the Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost. (2/9/15)
• Endorsed the chair’s proposal to coordinate a response to the Office of the President through Academic Council, regarding proposed health care options for the coming year. (3/9/15)
• Approved recommendations from the Committee on Teaching regarding the evaluation of teaching for merit and promotion cases. (4/13/15)
• Forwarded comments on the UCB faculty salary equity study report to the Vice-Provost for the Faculty. (5/11/15)
• Forwarded comments on the draft addendum to the 1987 recommendations for administrating and analyzing student course evaluations, to the Vice-Chancellor for Undergraduate Education. (5/11/15)

Budget and Planning
• Forwarded comments on the implementation of Campus Shared Services to the Operational Excellence faculty head. (11/17/14)
• Authorized the Division chair to inform the Chancellor of potential issues with the Lower Sproul redevelopment project. (12/8/14)
• Authorized the Division chair to seek information from the administration about capital-related debt on general obligation bonds. (3/9/15)
• Endorsed the Deloitte Consulting report, [Residential and Student Service Programs]RSSP Financial and Operating Model Assessment, and forwarded the comments of the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) to the Vice-Chancellor for Administration and Finance. (4/13/15, 4/27/15)
• Approved and forwarded CAPRA’s budget recommendations for 2015 to the Chancellor and Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost. (4/27/15)

Awards and Honors
• Approved two 2014 Berkeley Faculty Service Award recipients. (9/8/14)
• Approved the 2015 Clark Kerr Award recipient. (10/20/14)
• Approved two 2014 Leon Henkin Citation for Distinguished Service recipients. (12/8/14)
• Approved two Martin Meyerson Berkeley Faculty Research Lecturers for 2016. (2/23/15)
• Approved five recipients of the 2015 Distinguished Teaching Award. (3/30/15)
• Approved two 2015 Berkeley Faculty Service Award recipients. (4/13/15)
• Approved the 2015 Leon Henkin Citation for Distinguished Service recipient. (5/11/15)

Senate Management
• Approved conflict of interest guidelines for DIVCO. (9/8/14)
• Held Division meetings on 10/29/14 and 4/22/15.
• Approved a structural policy for 2014-15 and 2015-16, relating to co-chair representation on DIVCO. (11/3/14, 1/26/15)
• Approved a revised charge for the Senate Athletics Council. (12/8/14)
• Approved authorization for the Division chair to act on behalf of Divisional Council during winter break. (12/8/14)
• Approved the 2013-14 annual report for the Division. (1/26/15)
• Conducted an electronic election for the 2015-16 Divisional Council and Committee on Committees. (3/4/15)
• Approved authorization for the Division chair to act on behalf of Divisional Council, and for the Division vice chair to act, in the Division chair’s absence, on behalf of the Division chair and Divisional Council, during summer break until reconvening in fall semester. (5/11/15)

Senate Events
• Held a Senate leadership orientation on 9/4/14.
• Sponsored a panel event, "50 years after the Senate vote on the FSM: a reflection," to commemorate the Free Speech Movement on 12/8/14.
• Held a campus budget information session for Senate members on 3/16/15.
• Co-sponsored, with Professor Philip Stark (Statistics), a talk by Dr. Anne Boring on gender bias in student evaluations of instructors on 4/15/15.
• Held an end of year reception for Senate leadership on 5/5/15.