

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING ON ACADEMIC RESTRUCTURING
BERKELEY DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
Tuesday, April 12, 2016

A special meeting of the Berkeley Division was called to order at 2:10 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, in Booth Auditorium, Berkeley Law, pursuant to call. Professor Robert Powell, chair of the Berkeley Division and professor of political science, presided, and confirmed a quorum of 50 Senate members.

These 40 Berkeley Senate members requested a special meeting of the Berkeley Division:

Paul Fine, Associate Professor, Integrative Biology (IB); Carolyn Merchant, Professor, Environmental Sciences, Policy, and Management (ESPM); Ellen Simms, Professor, IB; Chelsea Specht, Associate Professor, Plant and Microbial Biology; Jimmy McGuire, Associate Professor, IB; Bruce Baldwin, Professor, IB; Brent Mishler, Professor, IB; Todd Dawson, Professor, IB and ESPM; Robert Dudley, Professor, IB; Cynthia Looy, Assistant Professor, IB; Janet Sorenson, Professor, English; Gordon Frankie, Professor, ESPM; Alastair Iles, Associate Professor ESPM; Maggi Kelly, Professor, ESPM; George Bentley, Professor, IB; Allen Goldstein, Professor, ESPM; Erica Rosenblum, Assistant Professor, ESPM; James Davies, Associate Professor, Music; Patrick O'Grady, Associate Professor, ESPM; Whendee Silver, Professor, ESPM; Garrison Sposito, Professor of the Graduate School (ESPM); David Wake, Professor of the Graduate School (IB); Robert Lane, Professor of the Graduate School (ESPM); Ian Wang, Assistant Professor, ESPM; Justin Brashares, Associate Professor, ESPM; Claire Kremen, Professor, ESPM; Miguel Altieri, Professor, ESPM; Tyrone Hayes, Professor, IB; Mimi Koehl, Professor, IB; Steve Beissinger, Professor, IB; Mel Chen, Associate Professor of Gender & Women's Studies; Mark Tanouye, Professor, ESPM; Jeffrey Chambers, Associate Professor, Geography; Laurel Larsen, Assistant Professor, Geography; Katharine Milton, Professor, ESPM; Nancy Peluso, Professor, ESPM; Greg Levine, Associate Professor, History of Art; Anne-Lise François, English and Comparative Literature; Kristin Hanson, Associate Professor, English; and Celeste Langan, Associate Professor, English.

One item of business was proposed for the meeting:

Open discussion about Berkeley's academic mission, shared governance, and efforts by the administration to reorganize campus academic units and organizational structures. The discussion would focus on concerns, consequences, and constructive ideas.

¹ Recordings of Divisional Meetings are available online at <http://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/division-meetings>. Contact <acad_sen@berkeley.edu> for more information.

Division Chair Robert Powell opened the meeting, asking commentators to limit their remarks to three minutes.

Chancellor Nicholas Dirks was first introduced to present an update on academic restructuring. Recent announcements have raised concern around campus, and the Chancellor indicated his willingness to continue discussion to alleviate those concerns. The first year has been one of gathering information and making changes that reduce spending and increase revenue. Care will be taken that restructuring and the financial model are aligned with Berkeley's mission. Debt restructuring will enable a significant amount of savings. A joint Senate-administrative work group has been formed to develop key objectives in the academic and financial arenas. The deans have been asked to identify potential projects within their units. The Chancellor assured the faculty that Senate consultation would be expanded throughout the planning process.

The campus is also exploring options in administrative restructuring and this will include consultation with the Senate, former administrators and external experts, as well as the campus community.

Participants in open discussion were highly critical about the lack of Senate consultation in the on-going restructuring process and warned about the high potential for damage to Berkeley's quality. Highlights of the discussion included the following points:

- Senate members are the most qualified on campus to lead academic restructuring and to determine the University's direction. Faculty expertise can and should be better utilized. The Senate should lead this effort.
- There were calls to dismantle the newly created Office of Strategic Initiatives.
- Increased transparency, better communication, and greater emphasis on shared governance are urgently needed. Although expanding consultation might slow progress, the end result will be much better for the University.
- Better financial data is needed.
- Berkeley has a revenue problem and the tuition freeze has greatly hampered Berkeley's ability to cope with the decreased state funding. Stronger state support is needed.
- The size of the administration must be brought back into balance with the faculty and students.
- We must learn from past mistakes.
- If the size of the staff is reduced, there must be an associated decrease in workload.

No action was taken. The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Daniel Melia
Secretary, Berkeley Division