



320 STEPHENS HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The Fortnightly

May 16, 2019

Welcome to the fifteenth issue of a fortnightly digest of news from the Division Council (DIVCO) of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate. The intent of the digest is to summarize issues being discussed at DIVCO, provide updates on recent deliberations and policies, and to highlight engagement by the Senate with members of the administration and student groups.

DIVCO meets every two weeks during the semester. A schedule of these meetings, along with approved minutes, can be found online at

<https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/committees/divco>

Issues under review by the Berkeley Division and the systemwide Senate can be found online at

<https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/issues/issues-under-review>

<https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/under-review/index.html>

The fifteenth meeting of DIVCO was held on Monday, May 13. This was the seventh and final meeting of DIVCO this semester. Items on the agenda included

1. Discussion of the [Report of the Task Force on Micro-credentials](#)
2. Discussion of the [Strategic Plan's Signature Initiatives reports](#)
3. Discussion of the Upper Hearst project and capital planning
4. Discussion of [Immigration Enforcement and UC Patients](#)
5. Discussion of the UCSF-Dignity Health affiliation
6. Discussion of the COCI statement on quality education
7. Discussion of the Concurrent MBA/M.Eng degree program proposal
8. Discussion of the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) 2019-2020 policy and budget recommendations

The Task Force on Micro-credentials was convened by Chair Barbara Spackman in the Fall of 2018 to examine the proposed adoption of EdX's "MicroBachelors" in conjunction with data science courses for students at San Jose Community College. Members of the task force also surveyed current MicroMasters offered by BerkeleyX, certificates issued for online courses administered by UC Berkeley Extension, and the evolution of the relationship between EdX and

UC Berkeley. DIVCO approved the report with some minor modifications and the revised report will be available shortly on the Senate's website.

Members of DIVCO also discussed the most recent version of the Signature Initiatives associated with the Strategic Plan. There was widespread appreciation for the role the initiatives will play in fundraising and planning. However, concerns were raised about the lack of emphasis on basic research in both the sciences and the humanities and graduate education in some of the initiatives.

The centerpiece of the three-hour meeting of DIVCO was a one-hour discussion with Chancellor Carol Christ and members of her cabinet on the Upper Hearst Project, and the administration's proposed response to the [Senate resolution](#) that was passed during the special meeting on May 1. Attendees invited to the meeting included EVCP Paul Alivisatos, VC and CFO Rosemarie Rae, VCA Marc Fisher, Director of Parking and Transportation Seamus Wilmot, and Associate Vice Chancellor for Capital Strategies John Arvin. In addition to DIVCO members the following Senate faculty were also invited: current CAPRA members Holly Doremus (current CAPRA vice chair), Paul Fine (the incoming chair of CAPRA), and Richard Stanton (the incoming vice chair of CAPRA); and, on an exceptional basis, two former chairs of CAPRA, Nancy Wallace and Sanjay Govindjee. Professors Stanton, Wallace, and Govindjee had provided a widely distributed analysis of the finances of the Upper Hearst project prior to the May 1 special meeting.

During the one-hour exchange about the project, Chancellor Christ outlined her commitment to doubling the number of housing units for the campus community and emphasized the importance of the associated Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) to future capital projects for the campus. Members of DIVCO and invited faculty questioned the necessity of submitting the project to the Regents for their approval at their May 15 meeting in UCSF in Mission Bay, expressed concern about the debt associated with the project, emphasized the need to stress test the financial model for the project, and explored the possibility of decoupling the SEIR from the Upper Hearst project. There was also a discussion by both faculty and members of the administration of the need to improve Senate input to capital projects that are now increasingly funded by partnerships with private companies or are driven by philanthropy, the need for a comprehensive parking plan for the campus, and the potential suitability of the Upper Hearst project for graduate student housing.

There was a brief discussion at DIVCO of UCSF's proposed affiliation with Dignity Health and a proposed policy concerning immigration enforcement by UC Health. There was a more substantive discussion of a statement of concern about the quality of education by the Committee on Courses of Instruction (COCI). COCI's concerns pertained to the practice of eliminating discussion sessions from courses because of new guidelines that eliminate the hiring of graduate student instructors for courses with fewer than 50 students in some divisions and disciplines.

The meeting closed with a discussion led by the chair of the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA), Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, on [CAPRA's budget recommendations for 2019-20](#). The three recommendations pertain to financial reform, fixing the capital planning processes on campus, and implementation of comprehensive review of administrative units on campus.

This is the last issue of the Fortnightly that I will be writing. I will be stepping into the role of chair

of the Berkeley Division in late August and Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, the incoming vice chair, will be taking over authorship. I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Barbara Spackman and Andrea Green Rush for their expert editorial advice and guidance over the past 15 issues. My thanks to you, the reader, for your engagement. I hope your semester has successfully concluded and your summer is off to a great start.

Sincerely,

Oliver O'Reilly

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Professor of Mechanical Engineering