

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**BERKELEY DIVISIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Monday, November 25, 2024 – 12:10-2:00 PM**  
**Stephens Hall, Conference Room 310**

Divisional Council (DIVCO) met on Monday, November 25, 2024 in Stephens Hall, room 310. Division Chair Amani Nuru-Jeter presided. A quorum was present as shown on the attached attendance chart.

**I. A. MINUTES** of the meeting of November 4, 2024

**ACTION:** The minutes were approved as presented

**II. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Committee on Committees (COMS) nominations**

**ACTION:** The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Division Chair Nuru-Jeter*

The Chancellor plans to launch a new strategic planning process in the spring. There are no details yet but members will be apprised as more information becomes available.

Chair Nuru-Jeter called attention to a series of memos dating back to 2022 between the systemwide Academic Senate and President Drake regarding faculty pay grievances. The letter highlights the disproportionality in pay increases between faculty and chancellors, the impact of late pay increases on faculty, and concerns related to increases in health plan costs. The letter has been signed by faculty from across the UC system.

A task force will be convened to study the potential impacts of a transition to a system-wide academic calendar, where all campuses would be on the semester system. This would provide a uniform system within the UC and would align with the CSU and community colleges. The first stage of the work group's finding should conclude by June of 2025, followed by a 90 day system wide comment period.

The future of doctoral programs at the UC is nearing completion, with a report expected for system-wide review soon.

Finally, Chair Nuru-Jeter noted the near completion of the Senate workgroup on generative AI in the classroom and the appointment of Elected DIVCO member Joseph as co-chair. Senate member Massimo Mazzotti has agreed to serve as liaison to PAC-AI (Provost's Advisory Council on Artificial Intelligence). The information that was crowdsourced through the gen AI workshop at the Fall Division Meeting will be used as a jumping off point for the work group.

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## A. Academic Senate Pulse survey

Chair Nuru-Jeter suggested editing the survey to make it more concise and more likely to be read by Berkeley faculty. She emphasized the importance of faculty understanding the Senate's work before answering the survey and stressed the need for clear communication of committee charges and current priorities. There was a proposal to allow faculty to choose a few committees of interest and focus on those when responding to the survey as well as including a link to more detailed information for those interested.

Chair Nuru-Jeter will work with Elected Members and Vice Chair Stacey to revise the survey format and send it back to committees for final feedback. The group agrees on the need for a clear and digestible summary of Senate priorities, with links to more detailed information for those interested.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. **Discussion/action:** Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 479 (CalGETC)

Chair Nuru-Jeter introduced the proposed revisions to CalGETC, explaining the current limitations of IGETC and the need for more flexibility for transfer students. The proposed changes include allowing students to defer up to two additional courses and more flexibility in science course requirements. Members discussed the importance of clear communication and training for advisors to manage the changes. The group agrees to support the proposed revisions and requests clarification on the definition of "distinct academic disciplines" for the revision related to the two science courses.

**ACTION:** DIVCO authorized Chair Nuru-Jeter to draft a letter and forward committee comments to the Chair of the Academic Council.

### B. **Discussion/action:** Proposed Senate Regulation 627 (Posthumous Awarding of Degrees)

Chair Nuru-Jeter introduced the proposal for posthumous degrees, noting the previous proposal in 2019 and the need to simultaneously develop a relevant Senate regulation. Members raised concerns about wanting to ensure that the existing policy at Berkeley, which is more stringent than the systemwide proposal, will remain in place; they hope that Berkeley's can be used as a resource for other campuses. DIVCO also discussed the potential impact of academic pressures on student mental health and a desire to avoid any unintended consequences. The example of suicidality was provided where a student may feel that suicide is the only way to get their degree. While this is an extreme example, DIVCO members want to flag concerns related to potential academic pressures and ensure that student mental health is being considered. The proposal described individuals who can make the request for the posthumous degree on behalf of the deceased, leaving it open to possibly allowing students to step into this role. DIVCO members thought this was odd and suggested that a dean or department chair should take lead in this process.

The group agreed to include a statement about mental health in the feedback and ensure that Berkeley's existing policy is maintained.

**ACTION:** DIVCO authorized Chair Nuru-Jeter to draft a letter and forward committee comments to the Chair of the Academic Council.

**C. Discussion/action:** Review of the Department of Physics

Chair Nuru-Jeter introduced the Academic Program Review for the Department of Physics, emphasizing the role of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate (DECC) in supporting units in meeting diversity goals.

Members discussed that women faculty in the department consistently report a toxic, broken, and dysfunctional environment. The issue of toxicity was not reflected in the department's self-study, raising concerns about the department's self-assessment processes. Additionally, the delayed results of the 2022 climate survey raise concerns about engagement with these issues. As in other APRs, DIVCO discussed the concept of excellence, suggesting that DEI is part of excellence. There were also concerns about the lack of representation of women and people of color among the student body and among faculty.

The role of cross-disciplinary work and the challenges in building connections with other departments was also discussed. Members stressed the importance of the unit having more connections with the rest of the campus.

Members commented on what appeared to be a fragmented governance structure in the unit, suggesting the need for more engagement across sub-disciplines. There were also comments about needing to better integrate lecturers given the important pedagogical role in the department. Despite their critical role in teaching, non-Senate faculty report feeling like second-class citizens. While the impact of this issue on climate within the department is acknowledged by the unit, DIVCO suggests explicit steps toward more inclusive practices. Members described the need for someone at the decanal level to address these structural issues so that they don't fall solely upon the faculty equity advisor.

**ACTION:** DIVCO authorized Chair Nuru-Jeter to draft a letter and forward committee comments to the Vice Provost of Academic Planning.

**D. Discussion only:** Role of DECC in supporting units post APR

Chair Nuru-Jeter noted that there would be a follow up discussion on this topic at a later date.

**E. Forward\****Systemwide- Re: Implementation of Public Law 117-328: Incomplete grading policy for service members called to active duty, training, or state service Forwarded to the Committees on Courses of Instruction (COCI) and Rules and Elections (R&E). DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for December 16, 2024*

**F. Forward\****Systemwide- Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy Use of Animals in Research, Teaching, and Testing*

*Forwarded to the Graduate Council (GC), the Committees on Research (COR), the Committee on Teaching, and Undergraduate Council. DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for January 27,, 2025.*

*\*A copy is available on the DIVCO Box site on the tentatively scheduled meeting date.*

**VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- A. AEPE's letter on the Reinforcement of Berkeley Division Regulation 809.B on Direct Admit of College of Letters and Sciences Transfer Students**
- B. Subcommittee on American Cultures 2023-24 Annual Report**
- C. Committee on Courses of Instruction 2023-24 Annual Report**
- D. DIVCO's response on Proposed Negotiated Salary Program (NSP) Implementation Plan**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.



INVITED GUESTS *	9/9/24	9/23/24	10/7/24	10/21/24	11/4/24	11/18/24	11/25/24	12/9/24	12/16/24

SENATE STAFF	9/9/24	9/23/24	10/7/24	10/21/24	11/4/24	11/18/24	11/25/24	12/9/24	12/16/24
Banaria, Jocelyn Surla	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Hashimoto, Dorothy	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		

P=Present A=Absent \* Non-voting