

APPROVED MINUTES
BERKELEY DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Monday, December 9, 2024 – 12:10-2:00 PM
Stephens Hall, Conference Room 310

Divisional Council (DIVCO) met on Monday, December 9, 2024, in Stephens Hall, room 310. Division Chair Amani Nuru-Jeter presided. A quorum was recorded as shown on the attached attendance chart.

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Committee on Committees (COMS) nominations

ACTION: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Division Chair Amani Nuru-Jeter

Chair Nuru-Jeter provided updates on the *Faculty Pulse Survey*, which has a low response rate. In the interest of getting a higher number of responses, Executive Director Jocelyn Surla Banaria will resend the survey with an extended deadline and email department chairs to encourage faculty participation.

Chair Nuru-Jeter proposed a monthly Academic Senate newsletter to maintain open communication with faculty on campus and ensure they are kept abreast of various matters. She also discussed conducting faculty focus groups to gather faculty perspectives on the proposed *Grief Absence Policy for Students Proposal* (GAPS) developed by the Student Advocate's Office (SAO) of the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC). Chair Nuru-Jeter, Vice Chair Mark Stacey, and Chair of the Committee on Courses on Instruction (COCI) David Landreth will facilitate focus groups on December 13 and 17 to gather faculty perceptions on GAPS to provide feedback to the SAO as they work to revise the policy. The policy aims to give students an excused absence for up to seven days, with faculty accommodating students through makeup exams and/or coursework. Department chairs were asked to recommend names of faculty with varying perspectives on the policy to address implementation challenges for these focus groups.

The Academic Senate's video project is continuing with individual interviews of faculty and administrators.

Chair Nuru-Jeter described a letter sent by Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (VPUE) O'Reilly's letter, which is a budget request for disability service providers at the University of California (UC). The letter was written by the UC Student Association (UCSA) and addressed to Governor Newsom. The request is \$16.95 million from the state to support the growing need for additional disability service providers. She encouraged members to review the letter and sign if they are in support of the request, noting many have already signed, including Berkeley faculty.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS–None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion only: Athletics discussion

Guests: Jim Knowlton, Director, Athletics

Jenniffer Simon O'Neil, Deputy Athletics Director

Jay Larson, Deputy Athletics Director

Oliver O'Reilly, Vice Provost, Undergraduate Education

Bryan Graham, Chair of Faculty Athletics Council (FACL)

Julie Conner, Deputy Campus Counsel

Athletics Director Jim Knowlton provided an overview of the department of Intercollegiate Athletics (IA), which is known as *Cal Athletics*. He emphasized the integration of the campus and IA's strategic priorities. Director Knowlton highlighted the success of *Cal* student athletes, including their academic and athletic achievements. He also provided a brief financial overview that showed the drivers of revenue and expenses, with a focus on media rights, philanthropy, and campus investment. Director Knowlton discussed the challenges of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) transition and the need for systemic changes in college athletics.

Deputy Athletics Director Jay Larson introduced the *House* settlement, explaining its impact on student athletes and the need for roster limits and compensation models, including its backward-looking and forward-looking components. The settlement aims to provide stability and compensation for student athletes while addressing antitrust issues and employment cases.

DIVCO members expressed concerns about the role of faculty in decision-making processes, particularly regarding college football bowl game participation and the need for transparent decision-making processes. Both directors emphasized the inclusion of faculty in decision-making, with regular engagement through various committees and consultants. DIVCO members emphasized the need for ongoing education and information sharing with faculty to understand the complexities of *Cal Athletics* to ensure faculty feel informed and engaged.

DIVCO members also voiced apprehension about the financial deficit and the need for a balanced approach to athletics funding. They discussed the potential impact of conference realignment and the need for flexible contracts and the importance of proactive planning and preparation for future changes in college athletics. In addition to external consultants and legal advisors providing guidance and support for decision-making, the Academic Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) workgroup on Athletics also meets with these groups regularly.

B. Discussion/action: Review of the Department of Mechanical Engineering (ME)

The commenting committees summarized their comments on the review of the department of Mechanical Engineering (ME). Members emphasized that it is a strong, successful program but highlighted the following concerns:

- The need for flexibility in the curriculum and for research opportunities;
- Fifth Year Bachelor of Science (B.S.)/Master of Science (M.S.) Program variations;
- Double majors and time-to-completion;
- Graduate level courses that do not contribute to the Temporary Academic Support (TAS) funding model;
- Transfer students having to re-take courses; and
- The need for data collection and transparent processes.

The department is praised for handling transfer students well, but issues were raised regarding articulation (e.g., retaking courses already taken in community college). DIVCO also discussed the distinction between lecture versus lab courses in terms of cost, noting that lab courses are more expensive. The discussion continued with the concerns about the impact of lab courses and course fees on diversity and access to research opportunities. DIVCO members emphasized the importance of research opportunities and equitable access for undergraduate students.

There was a discussion on how students with double majors have an extended time to degree. DIVCO members suggested revisiting data on double majors to examine if there are concerns with lengthening time to degree. Members mentioned the need for better data to understand the impact of double majors and other factors on time to completion, and brought up that addressing articulation issues at a structural level could help reduce time to graduation.

DIVCO members questioned the financial impact of the fifth-year master's program (i.e., Fifth Year Bachelor of Science (B.S.)/Master of Science (M.S.) program) and its structure compared to other departments. There is a lack of standardization in pricing and structure for fifth-year master's programs across departments. One member highlighted the differences of the fifth-year masters program in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences (EECS) compared to other departments, like ME.

Members stressed the need for better and comparative data to further understand department performance. Chair Nuru-Jeter suggested an end of year letter to the Vice Provost of Academic Planning (VPAP) to address process issues and the need for standard data reporting.

ACTION: DIVCO authorized Chair Nuru-Jeter to draft a letter and forward committee comments to the VPAP.

C. Discussion only: Guidelines for Response to Disruptions to Instruction

Chair Nuru-Jeter introduced the *Guidelines for Response to Disruptions to Instruction* document, noting the need for updates due to recent emergencies. There is a need to update the guidance to reflect changes in remote instruction technology and instructor autonomy to address both academic and safety concerns. The Chair of the Committee on Courses of Instruction presented the revised guideline document. DIVCO members suggested a joint statement from the Committee on Courses of Instruction (COCI) and the VPUE's office that clearly separates the concerns of both offices to provide clear guidance on emergency preparedness and instruction continuity.

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Disclosure of Faculty Misconduct During the Hiring Process

B. VPUE'S Letter: *Budget Request for Disability Service Providers at the University of California*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 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
Conner, Julie								P	
Graham, Bryan								P	
Knowlton, Jim								P	
Larson, Jay								P	
O'Reilly, Oliver								P	
Simon-O'Neil, Jennifer								P	

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	P	
Hashimoto, Dorothy	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	

P=Present A=Absent * Non-voting