

**APPROVED MINUTES
BERKELEY DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Monday, January 27, 2025 – 12:10-2:00 PM
Stephens Hall, Conference Room 310**

Divisional Council (DIVCO) met on Monday, January 27, 2025, 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 December 9, 2024

B. MINUTES of the meeting of December 16, 2024

ACTION: The minutes were approved as corrected.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Performance Studies PhD TCDD actions

Transfer the Performance Studies PhD to the Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies, and disestablish the Graduate Group

ACTION: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Division Chair Nuru-Jeter

The California Governor's Proposed Budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year was issued on January 9, 2025, which includes budgetary impacts on California's postsecondary education system including the UC, California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges (CCC). Chair Nuru-Jeter described the proposed cuts, which include deferral of the 5% increase to UC's base budget from the Compact and an additional ~8% cut. It also includes a cut to the Middle Class Scholarship. This scholarship is for undergraduate students and those pursuing a teaching credential with a certain family income level and attending a UC, CSU, or CCC. Chair Nuru-Jeter also provided updates on the Mortgage Origination Program (Standard MOP) and loans given out in the recent cycle and their plans to work with their banking partners to make small adjustments to the rate index so their portfolio is more desirable.

The Regents are concerned that the faculty discipline process is lengthy. A joint faculty-administrative work group set up by UC Provost Newman is examining the process and will provide recommendations for modifications. The report is due in May 2025, with a possible Regental vote in July. A three-person Regents work group will be created to obtain monthly updates and voice any concerns. Chair Nuru-Jeter emphasized the need for strengthening and continuing to advocate for shared governance at the UC.

The Special Assembly meeting scheduled for January 17, 2025, needed to be rescheduled due to technical issues. These items will now be discussed at the next scheduled Assembly meeting on February 13, 2025.

With regard to the new Presidential Administration concerning Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI), Chair Nuru-Jeter reported that the UC Office of the President will be providing guidance. She also highlighted an email sent by the Vice Chancellor for Research regarding federal funding and research and other guidance related to undocumented students.

The Associated Students of UC (ASUC) submitted a proposal for a *Grief Absence Policy for Students* last year and has been working with the Academic Senate and Administration. Chair Nuru-Jeter, Vice Chair Mark Stacey, and the Committee on Courses of Instruction (COCI) Chair David Landreth helped facilitate focus groups before winter break to gauge faculty support and collect a wide range of perspectives, which were provided to the ASUC. The ASUC representatives will attend DIVCO on February 24, 2025 to present their revised policy.

Chair Nuru-Jeter noted that another email will be going out to encourage more responses on the *Faculty Pulse Survey*.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS–None

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion/action: Systemwide-Use of Animals in Research, Teaching, & Testing

The commenting committees did not have much to add as this is an update of the existing policy which does not provide substantive changes. DIVCO members addressed specific text that there are no restrictions on what the animals can be used for. This led to questions of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) that oversees the implementation of these policies. Members questioned the membership of IACUC and whether it also includes legal and ethical scholars to ensure that ethics are being considered in deliberations.

ACTION: DIVCO authorized Chair Nuru-Jeter to draft a cover letter forwarding committee comments to the Chair of the Academic Council.

B. Discussion only: UC Academic Senate Chair

Guest: Steven Cheung, University of California, Academic Senate Chair

UC systemwide Academic Senate Chair Cheung provided updates and pressing issues of the Academic Council.

Chair Cheung described the concerns from the Regents regarding perceived unwillingness to administer disciplinary cases in a timely manner. The Regents asked why the faculty disciplinary cases can't be handled on a systemwide basis, and suggested that the process should be re-examined. The Regents also questioned if the investigation can be professionalized and accelerated.

There were also concerns about wanting greater centralization and consistency across the UC system. There is a joint Senate-Administrative work group looking into these issues and considering any needed modifications to Academic Personnel Manual (APM) 015 and APM 016 related to faculty discipline. The deliverables are expected for the May Regents meeting with anticipated Regental action in July.

Chair Cheung also discussed implications of the Governor's January budget including deferral of the buy-out for reducing non-resident tuition. Chair Cheung also provided an update on the Mortgage Origination Program (MOP). Due to the high commercial interest rates, the allocation was used early. The UC President has released an additional \$200 million to service loans through the end of 2025 that were being held or promised to new hires; and they hope to look for additional funding moving forward.

Chair Cheung noted that the Special Assembly meeting on January 17, 2025 will now have the items discussed on February 13, 2025 due to the Zoom video conferencing program crashing from a high turnout. The issues on the agenda were the following:

- The President's Information Security plan;
- The common payroll calendar issue – range adjustments and how it is affecting faculty; and
- Increase in health plan premiums.

Chair Cheung reported that the Davis division held a confidence vote for President Drake that was completed in December 2024. However, the outcome of the vote was not certifiable because President Drake is a member of the Academic Senate Assembly at every division and he was not provided a ballot and an opportunity to present his views. The Davis Division will have to either re-do the paperwork, and reconsider whether or not to move forward at Council to bring about these votes.

UCSF has brought two *Memorials* proposing to extend Academic Senate membership to the Health Science Clinical faculty and Adjunct faculty.

There are a number of important senior leadership searches in progress, which includes the UC President position and two chancellors - UC Santa Barbara and UC Riverside.

The study of total remuneration as well as post-employment benefits are two studies of interest; the last study was done about ten years ago. There will be a vendor to ensure the methods are suitable and examine how we are situated against our comparator institutions. There will be three to four faculty members from the systemwide Academic Senate Committee on Faculty Welfare's (UCFW) Health Care Task Force (HCTF) and Task Force on Investment and Retirement (TFIR) to serve on those committees to advise the vendor.

Finally, Chair Cheung reported that the Academic Senate is still working on how to keep students safe in the environment that is stemming from the federal Executive Orders. There are California state laws that protect undocumented students with respect to access

to higher education along with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The Academic Council is taking it seriously and hopes to communicate as soon as possible on guidance for the faculty.

The Committee on Research (COR) Chair posed questions to Chair Cheung regarding some of the Executive Orders on cease and desist letters with federally-funded research programs that include diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. He does not have answers yet, and hopes to meet with the chief legal members and the Vice Chancellors of Research. On the note of federal funding, members also questioned if the existence of diversity programs (at Berkeley) could find us in trouble in terms of eligibility for federal funds due to the current political climate. Chair Cheung notes that the President was still in the process of analyzing the language.

DIVCO members asked about the motivation for the Regents' concerns with faculty discipline. In addition, members made inquiries about growth and enrollment as it pertains to out-of-state students, standardized testing, and decreasing enrollment.

C. Discussion only: UC San Francisco (UCSF) memorials potential information session

UCSF forwarded two memorials, and each campus has until March 18, 2025 to submit the results of their campus votes. The first phase is that three campuses representing 35% of Senate membership vote to approve the resolution in order for the memorial to move on to phase two.

D. Discussion/action: Report of Academic Advisory Committee on Social & Ethical Implications of Computing & Data Science

Due to time constraints, this item was moved to be discussed at the next DIVCO meeting.

E. Forward* *Review of Draft Campus Disability Strategic Plan*

Forwarded to the Committees on Courses of Instruction (COCI), Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate (DECC), Committee on Faculty Welfare (FWEL), Graduate Council (GC), Committee on Teaching (COT), and Undergraduate Council (UGC). DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for February 10, 2025.

F. Forward* *Systemwide Senate Review: Presidential Policy on the Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential*

Forwarded to the Committee on Research (COR). DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for March 10, 2025.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. *Guidance on Instructor Preparedness for Classroom Disruptions and Emergencies*
website of the UC Berkeley Research, Teaching, & Learning - Center for Teaching & Learning

B. *Frequently Asked Questions for University Employees About Possible Federal Immigration Enforcement Actions on University Property* document by The Regents of

UC - Office of the General Counsel

C. Know Your Rights card text

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

DIVCO – ATTENDANCE, SPRING 2025

[illegible]

INVITED GUESTS *	1/27/25	2/10/25	2/24/25	3/10/25	3/17/25	3/31/25	4/14/25	4/28/25	5/12/25
Cheung, Steven	P								

SENATE STAFF	1/27/25	2/10/25	2/24/25	3/10/25	3/17/25	3/31/25	4/14/25	4/28/25	5/12/2025
Banaria, Jocelyn Surla	P								
Hashimoto, Dorothy	P								

P=Present A=Absent * Non-voting