

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

Divisional Council (DIVCO) met on Monday, February 10, 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 special meeting of January 27, 2025**

**ACTION:** The minutes were approved as corrected.

**II. CONSENT CALENDAR–None**

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Division Chair Nuru-Jeter*

Chair Nuru-Jeter began by stating that nomination petitions for the Committee on Committees (COMS) and DIVCO remain open until Tuesday, February 18. DIVCO members were encouraged to self-nominate or nominate colleagues, with attention to diversity and underrepresented groups. Committee chairs were asked to provide feedback on committee functioning. Outgoing chairs were encouraged to recommend successors, considering diversity in leadership.

Updates from the Academic Council included the following:

- The proposed modifications to the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC). A motion was passed at the December Academic Council meeting to split the proposal into two parts. The second part, which proposed extending the number of deferred general education (GE) courses for transfer students, was returned for further review. Concerns about the second part included potential enrollment strain on high-demand courses, increased time-to-degree for majors with heavy unit loads, and misalignment in course articulation between campuses. The Academic Council emphasized the need for a cost analysis before reconsidering the proposal.
- The University of California (UC) is incorporating the requirements of Assembly Bill 1905 (in effect on January 1, 2025) into Academic Personnel Manual (APM) 036, currently under systemwide review. The bill requires that administrators and supervisors consult with UC entities before providing official letters of recommendation for employees involved in sexual harassment complaints.
- Revisiting the discussion on posthumous degrees. While there was broad support for the policy, there were questions over the necessity of a systemwide policy versus campus-specific practices. Some members supported a standardized policy to ensure consistency across UC campuses, while others favored issuing general guidance instead. Additional concerns included ambiguous language regarding "good academic standing" and "family," as well as defining "extraordinary circumstances" that might warrant

exceptions. The policy will undergo further revisions for clarification before being reconsidered.

In an effort to foster community, a DIVCO member recommended taking the Black History walking tour of the campus. This idea was well received and will be scheduled at a later date. Chair Nuru-Jeter will be reaching out to other campus groups to look into similar options.

The Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Disability Accessibility and Planning (CACDAP) is organizing a Town Hall to discuss the draft campus Disability Strategic Plan for revision recommendations. Although there was an oversight in the DIVCO discussion schedule, it will still be early enough to provide initial input.

The training, created collaboratively by the Disabled Students' Program (DSP) and the Disability Alliance aims to address recurring challenges faculty face. The new version will be more practical and directly relevant to faculty concerns, offering guidance on implementing accommodations, understanding legal obligations, and navigating disputes. DIVCO members also highlighted broader concerns about the increasing number and complexity of disability accommodations. While accommodations are designed to ensure student access and success at the university level, faculty expressed concerns about balancing these needs with maintaining instructional quality.

#### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **A. Discussion/action:** Report of the Academic Advisory Committee on Social & Ethical Implications of Computing & Data Science

Upon review of the year one report, there appears to still be tension surrounding the integration of social and ethical considerations into the College of Computing, Data Science, and Society (CDSS), particularly with respect to faculty inclusion, curriculum structure, and AI (artificial intelligence)-related risks. The Human Technology Futures (HTF) proposal seems to face resistance, while the counterproposal (focused on applying data science to social sciences) has advanced with fewer difficulties.

The current approach to integrating social and ethical considerations into the data science curriculum has proven inadequate. The modular strategy, which aims to incorporate ethical discussions into existing courses, has not effectively addressed contradictions between ethical teachings and technical instruction. There were contradictions between ethical teachings and technical instruction, which suggests a need for deeper collaboration rather than simply "stapling on" social components. Ensuring that ethical considerations are deeply embedded rather than superficially added. DIVCO members noted that the report appears to lack substantial discussion on the risks of Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI), including bias, misinformation, and environmental impacts..

DIVCO members considered ways to improve department coordination and faculty support, such as refining appointment structures and seeking administrative solutions for better collaboration. Faculty members working in multiple departments often face

difficulties in balancing responsibilities, navigating different departmental cultures, and meeting expectations from multiple chairs. DIVCO members emphasized the importance of clear policies and structures that can support such collaborations without creating excessive administrative burdens. They also highlighted the financial implications of shared faculty positions particularly concerning how funding is allocated across departments. There will be a need for a more structured approach to funding interdisciplinary initiatives to ensure that faculty members receive adequate resources and support. DIVCO supports having a department within CDSS that is composed primarily of social scientists, who work on the ethical, political, and regulatory dimensions of computing, AI, and data science.

**ACTION:** DIVCO authorized Chair Nuru-Jeter to draft a letter forwarding committee comments to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost.

**B. Discussion only:** University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Memorial

In a follow-up discussion regarding the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) proposed *Memorials*, some DIVCO members expressed concerns that the previous meeting's discussion and vote had been rushed. Recognizing the need for a more deliberate approach, an email vote was conducted, resulting in having DIVCO take the vote, rather than opting for a broader campus-wide Academic Senate vote.

To ensure a thorough and well-informed discussion, six of the DIVCO committees were asked to review materials and provide feedback by the March 10, 2025 DIVCO meeting. A vote will take place during this meeting, and the outcome will be submitted to the systemwide Academic Council by March 17, 2025.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Discussion only:** Curriculum and Course Management System (CCMS) Presentation  
*Guests: Susan Cass, Manager, Central Evaluation Unit, Office of the Registrar*  
*Sarah Reed, University Registrar*

The University of California, Berkeley, is implementing a new Curriculum and Course Management System (CCMS) to enhance efficiency in handling course approvals, curriculum changes, and degree planning. It aims to address long-standing challenges associated with outdated and fragmented processes. The existing workflow is heavily dependent on personal connections, emails, and manual interventions.

Under the new system, most tasks will be fully automated, including course proposal submissions, approvals, catalog updates, and course search functionalities. Some of the updated benefits include the following:

- The ability to standardize and document curriculum workflows – ensuring no steps are missed;
- Administrators will receive alerts about relevant curriculum changes, preventing last-minute disruptions;

- Course dependency data will now be readily available, aiding resource allocation, classroom planning, and enrollment forecasting. The integration will ensure that changes in the curriculum are accurately reflected across university databases.

Plans are to officially launch in Summer 2025, followed by ongoing support and refinement. The graduate-level rollout will initially include catalog management and course approvals, with curriculum integration planned for a later phase.

DIVCO members addressed concerns about financial dependency, system efficiency, staff training, and the risks associated with transitioning to a new platform. While there was general support for adopting a vendor-based system, participants highlighted the need for a well-planned implementation strategy to avoid past pitfalls. Some of the main concerns raised in the discussion was the challenge of training, the transition timeline, and existing backup plans. To address these issues, the implementation team intends to hold additional focus groups and brainstorming sessions to collect feedback from different stakeholders.

**B. Discussion/action:** Campus Draft Disability Strategic Plan

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

**C. Forward\*** *Systemwide Senate Review: Proposed Revisions to APM - 675, Veterinary Medicine Salary Administration*

*Forwarded to the committees on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA), Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (BIR), Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate (DECC), Faculty Welfare (FWEL), Committee on Research (COR). DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for March 10, 2025*

**D. Forward\*** *UCSF Adjunct Faculty Series Academic Senate Membership Memorial to the Regents & Health Sciences Clinical Faculty Series Academic Senate Membership Memorial to the Regents*

*Forwarded to the committees on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA), Admissions, Enrollment, and Preparatory Education (AEPE), Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (BIR), Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate (DECC), Faculty Welfare (FWEL), Graduate Council (GC), and Undergraduate Council (UGC). DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for March 10, 2025*

**E. Forward\*** *Systemwide Senate Review: Proposed Revisions to APM - 036, General University Policy Regarding Academic Appointees/Employment*

*Forwarded to the committees on Graduate Council (GC), Faculty Welfare (FWEL), Committee on Research (COR), Committee on Teaching (COT), Undergraduate Council (UGC). DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for March 17, 2025.*

**F. Forward\*** *Review of the Energy Resources Group (ERG)*

*Forwarded to the committees on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA), Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (BIR), Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate (DECC), Graduate Council (GC), and Undergraduate Council (UGC). DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for March 31, 2025.*

**VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- A. Who Gets to Choose? The Impact of Restricting Access to STEM Majors on Inequality and Economic Growth
- B. Letter to the UC Community from Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Co-Chairs (Academic Planning Council)
- C. Toolkit for Serving Undocumented Students at the University of California
- D. Important update and need regarding the Graduate Academic Misconduct Policy

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



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
Cass, Susan		P							
Reed, Sarah		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	P							
Hashimoto, Dorothy	P	P							

P=Present    A=Absent    \* Non-voting