

**APPROVED MINUTES
BERKELEY DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Monday, March 31, 2025 – 12:10-2:00 PM
Stephens Hall, Conference Room 310**

Divisional Council (DIVCO) met on Monday, March 31, 2025, in Stephens Hall, room 310. Division Chair Nuru-Jeter presided. A quorum was present as shown on the attached attendance chart.

I. A. MINUTES of the meeting of March 17, 2025

ACTION: The minutes were approved as presented.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Committees on Committees (COMS) nominations

B. Proposed amendment to BDR A202 on Replacement of I Grade Criteria

C. Proposed amendments to BDR A207 on Grade Appeals

ACTION: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Division Chair Nuru-Jeter

At the 2024 Spring Division Meeting, the proposal to combine the committee on Faculty Awards and the Faculty Research Lecture committee was approved. Chair Nuru-Jeter will be utilizing the DIVCO Listserv to solicit feedback on the constitution of this newly combined committee.

Chair Nuru-Jeter gave a brief update on the DIVCO election. Since there were not three individuals with the minimum 35% of ballots case, a runoff election will be conducted between the two candidates.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion/action: GC's Three-year review of the Master of Development Engineering (MDevEng) self-supporting graduate professional degree program (SSGPDP)

The program has demonstrated strong community engagement and student enthusiasm, recent evaluations highlight critical structural and financial concerns to ensure its long-term viability.

One of the primary administrative challenges identified involved governance and leadership transitions. Evaluators noted the need to clearly separate administrative roles, such as the head graduate advisor from the program chair, to prevent conflicts of interest and enhance operational efficiency.

Initially well-funded, the program now relies on a tuition-driven model, which has resulted in budgetary shortfalls. Recent cohorts have been smaller than expected, leading to concerns that years four and five may be particularly challenging in terms of financial stability. The report recommends measures such as increasing student enrollment, strengthening alumni engagement, and exploring alternative funding sources. A growing proportion of international applicants, who may be less likely to accept admission offers, could contribute to declining enrollment and revenue shortfalls. DIVCO members raised concerns about the program's increasing reliance on international students, particularly given broader policy shifts within the University of California system that aim to reduce non-resident enrollment. Additionally, external funding sources such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have diminished, reducing opportunities for graduates in the field of development economics.

Unlike traditional academic departments, this graduate program is housed within a center rather than a departmental structure. DIVCO members expressed concerns about whether such organizational arrangements could impact long-term program stability, student support, and faculty engagement. Given the novelty of embedding graduate programs within research centers, further assessments are needed to evaluate whether this model is sustainable or if modifications are necessary. A motion was proposed with the recommendation that the program undergo another review in three years.

ACTION: DIVCO authorized Chair Nuru-Jeter to forward the Graduate Council's report to the Graduate Group in Development Engineering.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Discussion/action:** Draft DIVCO statement on the Federal Landscape and Defense of Academic Freedom

At the most recent DIVCO meeting, members approved to move forward with developing a statement on the federal landscape and its impacts on higher education at UC Berkeley. Several faculty members worked on a draft statement for the university, but the conversation quickly expanded to include the idea of a broader, systemwide Academic Senate statement. The goal was to explore options that could be most impactful, including the possibility of a resolution, which would call for concrete action, as opposed to a statement of values.

The initial idea was to create a UC Berkeley-specific statement to address concerns related to the federal landscape, particularly around issues like free speech. However, DIVCO members proposed expanding the scope to include the entire University of California system for a unified statement that could have a greater impact. Chair Nuru-Jeter shared that other schools, including UC Davis and the University of Michigan, were also working on resolutions, which further prompted the discussion at Berkeley about whether to pursue a statement or resolution and whether to act independently or collaborate with other institutions. DIVCO members suggested a statement and gave Chair Nuru-Jeter and Vice Chair Stacey approval to sign on to other resolutions in

solidarity with other universities.

B. Discussion only: Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) discussion

Guests: Marianne Constable, BIR member

Zsolt Kataona, Co-chair, Senate Workgroup on AI

Melissa Ko, Assessment & Curriculum Design Specialist, Center for Teaching & Learning

Erfan Mojaddam, Deputy Chief Academic Technology Officer, Director of Learning Technologies and Spaces, Center for Teaching & Learning

Michael A Ranney, Professor, School of Education

Anne Marie Richard, Chief Academic Technology Officer (CATO) for Research, Teaching, & Learning

Alexandra Saum Pascual, Senate Workgroup on AI member

Tracy Shinn, Associate Vice Chancellor for IT and Chief Information Officer

The discussion centered on concerns particularly in relation to the upcoming implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools on campus. Associate Vice Chancellor Shinn gave a brief presentation regarding the proposed roll-out of three currently licensed platforms to the campus, with careful communication about appropriate use. The goals include data security, equitable access to AI benefits, and opportunities for learning about AI and better understanding its risks

DIVCO members felt that the administration had moved forward with plans before engaging the Senate in a substantive way, effectively sidelining faculty from a process in which they should have been integral participants. Concerns were raised about the role of advisory groups, such as the Provost Advisory Council on AI (PAC AI), and whether they were being used as a substitute for formal Senate consultation. DIVCO guests acknowledged that there were communication gaps and expressed a willingness to improve the consultation process moving forward and reassured them that the administration was open to making necessary adjustments to improve collaboration. DIVCO members suggested that moving forward, the university should establish clearer protocols for faculty engagement, ensuring that major policy decisions are not made without appropriate consultation.

While there's some interest in the potential of AI tools to support teaching and learning, faculty and stakeholders expressed discomfort with how these technologies are being introduced, often without adequate transparency, consultation, or consent; and the potential negative impacts on student learning outcomes in some fields. There were also concerns that one of the RTL AI trainings gives the wrong message suggesting that AI can do a student's work for them. Thus, overall, there were concerns about how AI is being promoted as a potential learning tool on campus. DIVCO members also voiced concern that students and instructors may not fully understand what *Zoom AI* is doing, particularly if it runs in the background or captures data without clear, upfront disclosure. In classroom settings, where participation is often expected, this lack of clarity undermines autonomy and trust.

Public-facing materials and vendor language sometimes suggest that AI use is inevitable or required, which can mislead users and erode trust. DIVCO members stressed the importance of clear, ethical communication that prioritizes academic goals over

marketing narratives. Privacy was repeatedly flagged especially in relation to recordings, transcriptions, and summarizations in class. These tools should be implemented with safeguards that recognize the unique vulnerabilities of classroom spaces. Without clear guidance, AI tools risk encouraging dependency or blurring lines between student effort and automation.

C. Discussion only: Disability Accommodation Training Slide Presentation

Due to time constraints, this item will be discussed on April 28, 2025.

D. Forward**Systemwide Senate Review: Proposed New Presidential Policy on High-Containment Research*

Forwarded to the committees on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA), Faculty Welfare, and the Committee on Research. DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for May 12, 2025.

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

Forwarded to the committees on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA), Faculty Welfare. DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for March 31, 2025.

F. Forward**Review of the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering (CBE)*

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 May 12, 2025.

G. Forward**Proposal for Undergraduate Major in Korean Language and Culture*

Forwarded to the committees on Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (BIR) and Undergraduate Council (UGC). DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for May 12, 2025.

H. Forward**Systemwide Review of Proposed Revisions to Academic Personnel Manual (APM) 360, Appointment and Promotion, Librarian Series*

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), and Library Committee (LIBR). DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for May 12, 2025.

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

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS—None

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 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
Constable, Marianne						P			
Davidson, Justin						P			
Johnston, Steve						P			
Kataona, Zsolt						P			
Ko, Melissa						P			
Mojaddam, Erfan						P			
Ranney, Michael A.						P			
Saum Pascual, Alexandra						P			
Shinn, Tracy						P			
Swalina, Carolyn B.						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	P	P	P	P			
Hashimoto, Dorothy	P	P	P	P	P	P			

P=Present A=Absent * Non-voting