

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

Divisional Council (DIVCO) met on Monday February 12, 2024 in Stephens Hall, room 310. Division Chair Maximilian Auffhammer presided. A quorum was present as shown on the attached attendance chart.

I. A. MINUTES of the meeting of January 22, 2024
Enclosure 1

ACTION: The minutes were approved as presented.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Committee on Committees (COMS) nominations
Enclosure 2

ACTION: The consent calendar was approved as presented.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS
Division Chair Max Auffhammer

The Senate has strict guidelines on how to conduct business and meetings, whether in person or by *Zoom* video conference. Chair Auffhammer reminded members that if there are any members of committees that ask for accommodations, it would be advisable to have a conversation with the requestor rather than just denying the request.

The larger committee of the Chancellor search has now concluded its work and provided a short list to President Drake. The next steps are to be handled by the UC President and Regents.

The Systemwide Area C Working group finished its report and is expected to be released soon. There are concerns regarding how long it is taking. Hopefully, the report will be released before the next Academic Senate Assembly meeting.

At the last Academic Council meeting, it was decided to send the proposed undergraduate admissions Area H Ethnic Studies requirement for divisional review.

Last week, there was a *WarnMe* notification of an active shooter situation in Lower Sproul Plaza; there were nine shots fired near Zellerbach Hall. Often, mobile notifications do not display the entire message or have broken links. Chair Auffhammer received messages from both students and faculty asking campus leadership if more training is needed and/or if the *WarnMe* system is working effectively. He stated that he is following up with leadership.

As a reminder, the Spring Division meeting will be held in Chou Hall on April 25, 2024, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The main event will be a conversation between Vice Chair Nuru-Jeter and the Chancellor. On February 29, 2024, the official closing of the *Light the Way* campaign will be celebrated, which raised close to \$7.3 billion dollars.

Chair Auffhammer extended his appreciation to the Committee on Teaching (COT) for feedback on concerns around artificial intelligence (AI). There has been a request to initiate a task force to tackle this issue. We will be approaching committees for recommendations of names and/or committee members who would be a good fit for this task force.

Finally, Chair Auffhammer thanked Division Secretary Hesse, who encouraged individuals to run for the Divisional elections. Chair Auffhammer hopes members will think about recent associate professors for future service opportunities. The Committee on Committees (COMS) helped find members and chairs for 28 administrative and Academic Senate committees last year. For any questions regarding the process, please reach out to COMS Chair Sheehan or Chair Auffhammer.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion/action: CAPRA comments on Gifts that Require Substantial Campus Contributions

The Committee of Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) requests DIVCO to endorse and forward any comments to the administration. Chair Villas-Boas hopes to make recommendations on how to improve and reduce costs.

DIVCO members agreed that this is a great document to hold people and projects accountable. They made suggestions on suggested wording and possible additions to the letter. The letter has strong recommendations with regards to focusing on maintenance of existing buildings. Other members wondered if certain clauses mandating that certain amounts or percentages of projects would need Senate consultation or approval. Some members made the case that “significant” is subjective when it comes to budget, so more clarification would be dependent on the situation, with additional background information needed. It was asked if other departments could bid on projects that were not fully funded to claim some square footage. Gifts that restrict the ability to reallocate space in a building should be preferred. The last suggestion was that if it were deemed necessary to put together a committee for a project, either some DIVCO, CAPRA, or broader Senate representation would be ideal.

ACTION: DIVCO members authorized Chair Auffhammer to write a cover letter forwarding committee comments to the administration.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion/action: Systemwide Senate Review: Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-46 Use of University Vehicles

Co-chair of Faculty Welfare (FWEL) wrote a letter and hopes that DIVCO will endorse it. They found this policy to be overly risk averse in restricting = faculty’s use of vehicles

in ways that are unnecessary.

ACTION: DIVCO authorized Chair Auffhammer to write a cover letter endorsing the letter written by the Committee on Faculty Welfare (FWEL) to the Chair of the Academic Council.

B. Discussion only: L&S Initiatives (12:40-1:25 pm)

Guests: Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, Executive Dean, College of Letters and Science, Rebecca Sablo, Assistant Dean for Administration & Finance, L&S Undergraduate Studies Division

Executive Dean Johnson-Hanks thanked DIVCO members for the work that they do. She mentioned that the Letters & Science (L&S) Executive Committee (EC) is the Academic Senate body of the College of Letters & Science. It has not always had close ties with the Divisional Council, but has aspirations to ensure a better alignment with DIVCO. Prior to 1993, the L&S Executive Committee was also listed on the ballot for Senate nominations which then fell out of practice. Executive Dean Johnson-Hanks suggests making annual visits to DIVCO to help strengthen this bond.

She explained the past and upcoming structural changes within the College of Letters & Science. These included the approval of the creation of the Department of Neuroscience, the departure of a portion of undergraduate majors to the College of Data Science and Society (CDSS), direct admissions to the Haas School of Business, and the creation of a major in Education. With the changes, there have been bumps on the administrative and bureaucratic side. She also reported an upcoming retirement for one of the L&S Deans.

Executive Dean Johnson-Hanks described her current passion projects:

- L&S Advising: A new Assistant Dean for Advising was hired, alongside nine additional entry-level staff members, and is in process of making more new hires. They have streamlined what their work consists of (not yet matriculated students).
- Improving first year student experience: This is in a pilot phase of new cohorts which includes 25 students taking three courses (or two large lecture courses for a dedicated section). There are still questions, such as the following:
 - How can this be scaled?
 - Should this be taught by a faculty member?
 - Specify that this should be classes in a linked section?
 - Blocked enrollment for this instead of fighting others for enrollment?

If this be successful, they hope to look into philanthropic support.

- Redesign of L&S 1: They are hoping to structure this course into a “How to College” course. Topics may include locations of the libraries, importance of sleep, alcohol consumption, and the importance of a broad education across Arts and Science matters.
- [L&S Futures](#): Rethinking the “general education requirements” outside of any intended majors. Since the world has changed in the past 30 years, L&S would like to revisit how is breadth and depth in general education considered; L&S are in the middle of this process. We expect a workgroup report in March so that we can make decisions by Fall 2024.

DIVCO members discussed these further alongside the following questions and suggestions:

- In terms of breadth requirements, the Chair of the Faculty of Welfare (FWEL) suggested approaching the Executive Committees of different colleges because these are the people who are approving curriculum changes. The Chair of the Undergraduate Council (UGC) inquired about the timeline of these changes and if their committee would be able to see and review them prior.
- Inquiry of representation on the Executive Committee from other departments.
- Budgets and enrollment in terms of the *Compact* with the Governor;
- Structures of the cohorts;
- Retention of underrepresented students in STEM fields;

C. Discussion/action: UC Academic Planning Council (APC) Workgroup *Interim Report with Appendices: Future of Doctoral Programs at the University of California*

DIVCO members appreciated reviewing the report, but commented on a lack of data and clarity. Some DIVCO members noted that there was a lack of attention paid to variability in the way graduate education functions and its relative importance across campuses. It felt driven by the idea of budget and policies instead of focusing on the longer run mission of graduate education more broadly defined. The interim report was missing an actionable set of recommendations, which hopefully would be added in the final version. Members thought it would be helpful to have guiding principles. It reignited a discussion on what it means practically to separate graduate student work from labor. Many departments build their whole programs around graduate students, which often is an attraction for faculty joining these departments.

Members wished that they could encourage the workgroup to think 10-20 years forward about doctoral education, instead of reacting to the past 12-18 months. However, it was mentioned that the workgroup did not want to examine this topic. It would be great to get this on the desk of the incoming Chancellor early in their career.

Chair Auffhammer shared that if members were interested, the report writing team would be holding office hours to share their thoughts.

ACTION: DIVCO members authorized Chair Auffhammer to write a cover letter forwarding committee comments to the Chair of the Academic Council.

D. Forward**Proposed Revisions to Systemwide Senate Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites*

Forwarded to the committees on Academic Freedom (ACFR), Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate (DECC), and Faculty Welfare (FWEL). DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for March 4, 2024.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Proposed Revision Policy for Auditing Classes at UC Berkeley
Enclosure 6

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.