

**APPROVED MINUTES
BERKELEY DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Monday, February 26, 2024 – 12:10-2:00 PM
Stephens Hall, Conference Room 310**

Divisional Council (DIVCO) met on Monday February 26, 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 February 12, 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

In the most recent Systemwide meeting, the Regents agreed to pull Academic Senate Regulation 630.E., which is the residency requirement. There are currently no fully online undergraduate degrees on campus.

Systemwide Vice Provost for Academic Personnel and Programs Douglas Haynes created a task force on instruction modalities which includes Chair Auffhammer and Division Vice Chair Nuru-Jeter. Chair Auffhammer aims to contribute to a thoughtful set of objectives that the task force can discuss.

The Regents discussed limiting the ability of campus departments to place political statements on administrative websites. It has been forwarded to a few Academic Senate committees, including the Committee on Academic Freedom (ACFR), which is not represented on DIVCO. ACFR Chair and the University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) Vice Chair will be invited to the next DIVCO meeting for further discussion.

The Area C Working Group released their report on math requirements and acceptable substitutes for undergraduate admissions. Chair Auffhammer noted that Berkeley is noting with some concern a low degree of performance in the introduction to math courses. DIVCO members were concerned and asked if there was anything the university could do, to better prepare the students prior to them attending Berkeley. The campus is putting a task force together to try to understand and address this issue.

Chair Auffhammer thanked members who contributed names to his request to fill the

artificial intelligence (AI) task force.

Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost (EVCP) Hermalin wants a task force to examine the cost of undergraduate education that will enable the university and departments to plan better. The Chair on the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) hopes to have some representation from CAPRA on this task force. The Chair of Graduate Council (GC) requests that the task force put thought into defining a “student” since it can hold a plethora of meanings such as credit hours, a body in a seat, a percentage of total cost, the number of courses they take, etc. Depending on these values, it will have different consequences on data analyzed. Other DIVCO members asked to highlight self-supporting degree programs as well as clarify if ‘cost’ is to the university to educate students or total cost to the student (i.e., allowing for parental and/or loan-based contributions, which is relevant when thinking about policy).

At the last systemwide Academic Senate Assembly meeting, there was discussion on the proposed revision on Academic Senate Bylaw 55. The proposed revision extends voting rights within academic departments to Teaching Professors/Lecturers with Security of Employment (LSOE’s). The current status is that a department with two thirds vote can adopt that rule. Assembly decided to table the item until the next meeting. Chair Auffhammer plans to converse with a few departments. If there are any ideas not reflected in previous letters, please contact Chair Auffhammer so that he may communicate them at the next meeting on April 18, 2024.

Systemwide Provost Newman holds three hybrid congresses a year. The in-person location is the Luskin Center at UCLA. The topics have been on graduate education and artificial intelligence (AI). The next one will be held on May 1, 2024, on online education.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS—None

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion/action: Proposal to Consolidate the Nutritional Science and Toxicology Undergraduate Specializations

This proposal is driven by the accreditation body requiring a master’s degree for a certain job title. The program seems to be struggling with the resources to offer more tracks. This proposal was to meet both requirements and allow the program to live within its constraints. Both the Committee on Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (BIR) and Undergraduate Council (UGC) found the proposal to be well-thought out.

ACTION: DIVCO authorized Chair Auffhammer to draft a cover letter to forward committee comments to the Vice Provost for Academic Planning.

B. Discussion only: Updates from the Division of Equity and Inclusion (E&I) (12:30-1:00 pm)

Guests: Dania Matos, Vice Chancellor–E&I

Fabrizio Mejia, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Equity and Success–E&I

Elisa Huerta, Associate Vice Chancellor for Educational Justice & Community Engagement–E&I

Amy Scharf, Director of Faculty and Departmental Diversity Initiatives–E&I

Vice Chancellor Matos and her team provided a high level overview on what the Division of Equity and Inclusion (E&I) works on across campus. This division has been on campus for fifteen years and was the first in the University of California (UC) system to serve staff, faculty, and students on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues. The current national DEI landscape contains nineteen bills in fourteen states banning the following:

- The employment and funding of DEI offices;
- Diversity statements;
- Mandatory diversity training; and
- Identity-based preferences for hiring and admissions.

The *Thriving Initiatives* framework is working to embed into the academic enterprise from funding, curricula, and climate. They would love to shift the narrative from “*Surviving Berkeley*” to “*Thriving at Berkeley*.” The initiatives include:

- African American Thriving Initiatives (AATI)
- Asian American & Pacific Islander Thriving Initiatives (AA&PI)
- Native American Thriving Initiatives (NATI)
- Latinx Thriving Initiatives (LTI)
- Emerging Initiatives (STEAM and Gender Justice).

Alongside the *Thriving Initiatives* framework, they hope to also develop other initiatives such as Thriving Campus, Becoming an Anti-Racist Campus, Disability Justice, and Economic Justice and Essential Needs; these are all working towards the following priorities:

- Increase student enrollments of first-generation, low-income, and historically underrepresented undergraduate and graduate students;
- Make UC Berkeley “people ready” (people includes student, staff, faculty, community);
- Champion community-centered engaged research and pedagogy;
- Cultivate a culture of thriving and transformative, and lasting change;

According to the Economic Mobility Index calculated by national think tank *Third Way*, Berkeley ranks in the top tier of institutions for economic mobility, which is a measure of not only the proportion of low- and moderate-income students enrolled at an institution but also how well the institution serves those students. However, UC Berkeley has experienced a multi-year flat or downward trend in access for low-income students, as it relates to our Pell Grant student population. This puts Berkeley at the bottom of UC campuses in terms of percentage of Pell Grant eligible undergraduate students along with UCLA 28% and San Diego 33%. Sub-committees and workgroups have been created on campus to look at data for unique intersections of low-income. These include:

- Outreach and Admission Strategy Efforts;
- Yield, Transition, Navigation and Success Services Strategy; and
- Financial Aid and Scholarships Basic/Essential Needs Strategy;

The E&I Division is now implementing a (three-year) joint Academic Senate-Administration task force on the transfer student experience that spans from pre-admissions to graduation regarding sense of belonging amongst other issues. Transfer students are campus' most diverse and intersectional student population. Anchor House is opening in the fall which they are viewing as a game changer for incoming transfer students.

The Division continues to expand on both disability justice by the recent launch of *The E&I Disability Justice* Hub in Fall 2023. They have expanded programming this academic year in the Disability Community Cultural Center. They also have launched a Proctoring Task Force in spring 2024 to look at overall disability proctoring challenges and opportunities and to find long-term campus solutions for test proctoring.

Since August 2018, when Chancellor Christ commissioned the SB 179 Committee, they continue to elevate issues and make recommendations to executive advisory groups regarding broadening campus-wide, UC, and federal policies that need review. The committee continues to discuss and establish implementation plans within their units and a recommendation communications plan for socializing the campus to new processes, practices, and inclusive culture. The accomplishments of this committee paved the way for the Gender Recognition and Lived Named Policy implementation.

Vice Chancellor Matos partners with the graduate division on initiatives such as the recently launched Inclusive Excellence Hub and Neurodiversity Task Force. The task force is charged with proposing changes for graduate education at Berkeley to serve our neurodiverse prospective and current students' needs.

The E&I Division has been working with a multitude of departments on campus to help implement faculty and departmental diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and social justice (DEIBJ) Initiatives. These includes faculty dialogues, departmental consulting/facilitation, the Chancellor's Award for Advancing Institutional Excellence and Equity, and more. They are pleased to have a variety of participants ranging from the Chancellor's Cabinet, Council of Deans, Chief Administrative Officers, and Department Chairs.

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

- How will the Thrive Initiative intersect with advising?
- How does E&I interact and support the Office of Equity and Welfare (OFEW)?
- How does the Division manage tensions across campus regarding admissions policies? And is it part of their work to help different groups recognize the needs of other groups and have them empathize with each other?
- Not mentioning individuals in the foster care system—a group that Berkeley has made attempts to ease the path for.
- Where should faculty go and who does what? Quick contact: vcei@berkeley.edu
- Housing allocation decisions.

C. Forward* *Graduate Council approval of proposal of en route MS in Computational Biology*

Forwarded to the committee of Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (BIR). DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for April 1, 2024.

D. Forward* *Systemwide Senate Review: Second Review of Proposed Senate Regulation 424.A.3 (Area H)*

Forwarded to the committees on Admissions, Enrollment, and Preparatory Education (AEPE), Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate (DECC), and Rules and Elections (R&E). DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for April 29, 2024.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS—None

The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

DIVCO – ATTENDANCE, SPRING 2024

DIVCO MEMBERS	1/22/24	2/12/24	2/26/24	3/4/24	3/18/24	4/1/24	4/15/24	4/29/24	5/13/24
Aguilera, Adrian	P	P	P						
Ansell, Christopher	P	P	P						
Auffhammer, Maximilian	P	P	P						
Bunge, Silvia	P	P	P						
Fernald, Lia	P	P	A						
Firestone, Mary									
Gilles, Keith	P	P	P						
Hayes, Tyrone	P	P	P						
Hesse, Carla	P	P	P						
Landreth, David	P	P	P						
Levy, Jonah	P	A	P						
Morello-Frosch, Rachel	A	P	P						
Nelson, Jelani	A	P	A						
Nuru-Jeter, Amani	P	P	P						
Puckett, Kent	P	P	P						
Sheehan, Jonathan	P	P	P						
Villas-Boas, J. Miguel	P	P	P						
Volpp, Sophie	P	P	A						
Wallace, Nancy									
Wildsoet, Christine	P	P	A						
Wymore, Lisa	P	A	A						

INVITED GUESTS *	1/22/24	2/12/24	2/26/24	3/4/24	3/18/24	4/1/24	4/15/24	4/29/24	5/13/24
Elisa Huerta			P						
Dania Matos			P						
Fabrizio Mejia			P						
Amy Scharf			P						

SENATE STAFF	1/22/24	2/12/24	2/26/24	3/4/24	3/18/24	4/1/24	4/15/24	4/29/24	5/13/24
Banaria, Jocelyn Surla	A	P	P						
Hashimoto, Dorothy	P	P	P						

P=Present A=Absent * Non-voting