

**APPROVED MINUTES
BERKELEY DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Monday, October 30, 2023 – 12:10-2:00 PM
Stephens Hall, Conference Room 310**

Divisional Council (DIVCO) met on Monday October 30, 2023, in Stephens Hall, room 310. Division Chair Maximilian Auffhammer presided. A quorum was present as shown on the attached attendance chart. The agenda was reordered to accommodate the guests for item V. B.

I. A. MINUTES of the meeting of October 16, 2023
Enclosure 1

ACTION: The minutes were approved as presented.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Committee on Committees (COMS) nominations
Enclosure 2

B. Guidelines Concerning Scheduling Conflicts with Academic Requirements
Enclosure 3

ACTION: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Division Chair Max Auffhammer

Chair Auffhammer recapped the Clark Kerr activities from last Friday, October 27, 2023. The Institute of International Studies coordinated a discussion with Ambassador Gutmann, one of the Clark Kerr recipients. This was moderated by Director/Professor Susan Hyde (Political Science) and resulted in a well-attended event. The dinner was also well attended, and spirits were high. .

The Committee on Admissions, Education, and Preparatory Education (AEPE) and Senate leadership are working on admissions policies for the College of Computing, Data Science, and Society (CDSS).

Chair Auffhammer reminded DIVCO members of the Division Meeting that will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2023, 3:00-5:00 pm. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend. A *Zoom* link will be available on November 2, 2023.

The *Campus Conversation* on Athletics has been moved from October to November. This is due to scheduling issues. This conversation will include the Chancellor, Chair Auffhammer, Oliver O'Reilly, and Jim Knowlton, moderated by Dan Mogulof.

Chair Auffhammer highlighted some of the October 25th Academic Council meeting topics. The Division Chair attends these meetings and systemwide issues are raised,

which included online degrees and what this means in context of a residency requirement. There may be a systemwide effort to study this as soon as it is formally announced.

Open Enrollment is open, and premiums are skyrocketing systemwide. There is already a Berkeley Faculty Association (BFA) campaign on the price increases. Chair Auffhammer encouraged members to ensure they check their new health premiums since some plans have increased at least 96%.

Another Academic Council topic was on faculty pay raises, the exact magnitude of which are still pending. There is some pressure to raise pension contributions in lieu of a higher raise, which they are not considering. DIVCO members had some questions and concerns which included the following:

- The Committee on Faculty Welfare (FWEL) received letters from active faculty anticipating the increased costs of healthcare, which amount to a pay cut; if anyone has any good suggestions on potential pressure points that the committee can consider, please send to the FWEL.
- DIVCO members voiced significant concerns regarding the delays in merit letters and promotion reviews at the campus level. Chair Auffhammer elaborated on this issue; he met with Vice Provost for the Faculty, as well as sent a letter requesting that they acknowledge (by October 15, 2023) the severity of the issue and how long it will take to fix it. The Vice Provost acknowledged the problem and agreed to respond to the letter which has yet to be received. Chair Auffhammer replied that he would like to know the number of late cases by rank (i.e., Assistant, Associate, Full-time Employee), as well as a plan of when they are going to rectify this, preferably before the calendar year ends and before tax issues come into play. This issue has been raised multiple times with the Chancellor, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, and the Vice Provost for the Faculty. DIVCO members questioned if administration knows how corrosive this issue was; some faculty have thought about withholding this round of trainings because they do not know how else to withhold labors in a way that hurts central campus and not the students.
- The Chair of the Committee of Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (BIR) commented that she would be interested to see the data of the ranked late cases that Chair Auffhammer previously mentioned.
- Division Vice Chair Allen was surprised to hear that Berkeley's campus has the smallest ratio of Academic Personnel Office (APO) staff members to faculty members among the University of California campuses.

The final update from Chair Auffhammer was his discovery of the group *Friends of the University*, a group of supporters whose mission is to support the University of California through a statewide advocacy network and relationships with state legislators.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion/action: Revised Proposal for Department and Undergraduate Degree in Neuroscience

Chair Auffhammer reflected on conversations that he has had regarding the proposal for a new Neuroscience department and degree since the last Divisional Council (DIVCO) meeting. He summarized DIVCO's concerns:

- The notion of a Full-time Employee (FTE) tax; many faculty moving from one department to another and those department with vacancies might be inclined to want to fill those spots. Campus would have to sign off on these teaching load and student credit hours — this proposal includes an overall neutral or increase in teaching.

ACTION: DIVCO authorized Chair Auffhammer to draft a letter and forward DIVCO's endorsement and committee comments to the Vice Provost of Academic Planning.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion/action: Review of the Department of Optometry

Chair Auffhammer requested that committee chairs briefly summarize their findings. Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate (DECC) Chair Wildsoet was asked to stay to help clarify any questions regarding the committee reports since she is in the School of Optometry & Vision Science. Overall, committees were pleased with the efforts within the Department, and they raised the following concerns:

- Chair of The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) highlighted the financial concerns but had requested additional time to run more equations to provide a more solid list of recommendations.
- Chair of the Committee on Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (BIR) had no additional comments other than what had been submitted in *Enclosure 4c*.
- Chair of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate (DECC) highlighted that the Department of Optometry has made significant progress in diversity after hiring someone in this role.
- Chair of Graduate Council (GC) wanted clarity on absence policies and how it pertains to graduate students in the clinical area. There was also a disconnect in how the graduate students understood their responsibilities and how the program did.
- Chair of Undergraduate Council (UGC) was surprised in how much this department is involved with undergraduate students (i.e., labs and "Opto-Camp"). One of the committee recommendations was to showcase these programs. In addition, UGC suggests to institutionalizing feedback and analyzing data. There was a concern that transfer students may find it difficult to find the Optometry school's programs.

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

B. Discussion only: Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College & University Commission (WSCUC) Reaffirmation 2024 (1:15 – 1:45pm)

Guests: Oliver O'Reilly, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (VPUE)

Leslie Harlson, Interim Chief of Staff – VPUE

Sumali Tuchrello, Project Policy Analyst – VPUE

Vice Provost O'Reilly mentioned that the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) representatives can determine to choose approval for either six, eight, or ten years. The goal for the University of California, Berkeley (Berkeley) is to be reaffirmed for 10 years. Vice Provost O'Reilly's presentation (*Enclosure 5*) covered the following points:

- Berkeley was approved for a *Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation* (TPR) (an alternate pathway for eligible institutions) same rigor as current review process, but timeline is streamlined.
- The Berkeley's approved theme is *Promoting Student Success Through Discovery and Engagement*, which is how can we prepare our graduates to meet the challenges and opportunities for all undergraduates to participate in a *Discovery* experience and identify the points of student engagement that support student success.
- The timeline for a thematic proposal and anticipated members of the teams involved along with a progress tracker was also presented.

C. Discussion/action: *Creation of a Course Code*, Request from the Student Learning Center (SLC)

Chair of the Committee of Courses of Instruction (COCI) received a letter from the Student Learning Center (SLC) who wanted to offer courses. DIVCO members were concerned that 'non-academic' units, like the SLC, offering their own courses. They suggested that the SLC partner with an academic unit, such as the School of Education or other unit on campus. DIVCO members discussed the following questions and comments:

- What would be the pros and cons of having this done through the SLC?
- Members clarified that the SLC is not a free roaming entity, and it is a division.
- The logistics seem challenging, such as it would sit between departments, how will the department donate teaching, who pays for these courses, and that these units can be siloed.
- It was suggested that the Academic Personnel Office be consulted because it sounds as though non-academic staff will be supporting these courses.

ACTION: Chair Auffhammer will write a letter that will suggest seeking

partnership within existing modalities (i.e., School of Education) and to ensure that the funding model is clear.

D. Discussion only: Committee on Faculty Welfare (FWEL) Support for Executive Committee of the UC Berkeley Emeriti Association (UCBEA) Letter

Chair Firestone of the FWEL requested endorsement from the Divisional Council regarding a systemwide letter on *Navitus*. There have been many problems with this regarding prior authorization (six months) or plain denial. There are many unpleasant stories, such as an existing prescription (e.g., for ten years) being denied. The appended letter is requesting for a new Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) to be put out by Systemwide. This is the last year of the contract, so there is an imminent need to send the letter.

ACTION: DIVCO members agreed for Chair Auffhammer to send a letter of endorsement on the Committee on Faculty Welfare's request to the systemwide Academic Senate toward potentially replacing the current Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM), *Navitus*.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Admissions, Enrollment, and Preparatory Education (AEPE) Annual Report 2022-23

Enclosure 8

DIVCO – ATTENDANCE, FALL 2023

DIVCO MEMBERS	8/28/23	9/11/23	9/18/23	10/2/23	10/16/23	10/30/23	11/13/23	12/4/23	12/11/23
Allen, Amani	P	A	P	P	P	P			
Ansell, Christopher	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Auffhammer, Maximilian	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Bunge, Silvia	P	P	P	A	P	P			
Deacon, Terrence	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Fernald, Lia	A	P	P	P	A	A			
Firestone, Mary	P	P	P	P	A	P			
Hayes, Tyrone	P	P	A	P	P	P			
Hoofnagle, Chris	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Landreth, David	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Levy, Jonah	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Morello-Frosch, Rachel	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Nelson, Jelani	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Puckett, Kent	P	A	A	P	P	P			
Sheehan, Jonathan	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Villas-Boas, J. Miguel	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Volpp, Sophie	P	P	P	P	A	P			
Wildsoet, Christine	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Wymore, Lisa	P	P	A	P	A	P			

INVITED GUESTS *	8/28/23	9/11/23	9/18/23	10/2/23	10/16/23	10/30/23	11/13/23	12/4/23	12/11/23
Harlson, Leslie						P			
O'Reiley, Oliver						P			
Tuchrello, Sumali						P			

SENATE STAFF	8/28/23	9/11/23	9/18/23	10/2/23	10/16/23	10/30/23	11/13/23	12/4/23	12/11/23
Banaria, Jocelyn Surla	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Hashimoto, Dorothy	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Marias-Dezendorf, Rachel						P			

P=Present A=Absent * Non-voting