

**APPROVED MINUTES
BERKELEY DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Monday, November 15, 2021 – 12:10-2:00 PM
Academic Senate Conference Room, 310 Stephens Hall**

Divisional Council (DIVCO) met on Monday, November 15, 2021 in 310 Stephens Hall. Division Chair Ronald Cohen presided. Quorum was recorded as shown on the attached attendance chart.

I. A. MINUTES of the meeting of October 25, 2021

ACTION: The minutes were approved as presented.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Committee on Committees (COMS) nominations

ACTION: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Division Chair Ronald Cohen

Union Strike: The UC-AFT has scheduled a strike on November 17th and 18th 2021.

Systemwide Senate: The University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) made a proposal regarding political statements on university-related websites. It has not yet been decided how the recommendations in the proposal will be applied.

The Systemwide Committee on Undergraduate Exams recommended that there be no replacement exams for the SAT and ACT.

There is a move at systemwide to create a memorial to the Regents regarding reduction in CO₂ emissions. It will be required to be approved by all 10 campuses, and it may come to the spring or fall Division meeting for a vote.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion/action: Proposed Revision to Senate Regulation 478 (IGETC)

DIVCO discussed the proposed revisions, informed by committee comments.

DIVCO felt that some of the wording needed to be clarified. Several DIVCO members expressed confusion regarding whether the Ethnic Studies mandate for transfer students is currently in place, whether it would replace the American Cultures requirement, and whether it requires additional coursework for students. Colleagues who understood the context explained that the purpose of this regulation is to align existing requirements for transfer from community college to CSU with requirements for transfer from community

college to UC. DIVCO supported the gist of the regulation, noting the lack of clarity in the text highlighted in the committee comments.

In addition, there was also concern expressed that this requirement for transfer to UC not be interpreted as precedent-setting for changes in the high school A-G requirements.

ACTION: DIVCO authorized Chair Cohen to draft a cover letter and forward committee comments to the Chair of the Academic Council.

B. Discussion/action: Review of the Department of Ethnic Studies

DIVCO discussed the review of the Department of Ethnic Studies.

As individual scholars, the Ethnic Studies faculty are highly regarded. We recognize that this group of faculty serves as intellectual leaders in their disciplines, as mentors for graduate students who have gone on to become leaders in the field, and as mentors for students for whom the department is associated with personal identity. We also recognize that this group of faculty feels the call of campus and community service strongly.

Items raised in the discussion included:

- Governance: Ethnic Studies includes four partially overlapping groupings of faculty. That the department functions neither as four independent entities nor as a single unit has resulted in dysfunction and disagreement. As a result, there is a perception that the department is less than the sum of its parts and no longer the source of intellectual leadership in the field that it once was. Concerns were expressed that this situation will damage the campus's ability to recruit top scholars in the field.

DIVCO understands that resolving the governance challenges raised in this and prior reviews is a high priority for the campus. There were a number of suggestions around process, including the creation of bylaws and an external advisory board. Dean Raka Ray has already appointed a task force to consider viable solutions and we support her in this effort.

- Undergraduate and Graduate education: DIVCO views the work of revised governance as strongly connected to the undergraduate and graduate experience and recommends that the educational experience of our students be part of the charge of a governance reform task force..
- Hiring and scope: DIVCO supports the idea of additional faculty hiring within the department but not the 26 FTE suggested in the ERC report. BIR's suggestion of cohort hiring strikes us as an important potential method for establishing a successful community of scholars. We also encourage a broader conception of ethnic studies on the Berkeley campus, one that takes a generous interpretation of the number of faculty engaged in the discipline of ethnic studies whose appointments reside outside of the Department of Ethnic Studies. Ethnic Studies

should become the intellectual hub for this larger group of faculty. DIVCO members mentioned UCLA as a campus that has embraced a broader vision of ethnic studies, encompassing faculty from multiple units, and consequently an appearance of much larger numbers of engaged scholars.

- **Lecturers:** Lecturers in the department are alienated and the Department needs to take action to integrate lecturers as full educational partners.
- **Graduate experience:** We note here the suggestion that graduate student mentoring be more explicitly recognized as teaching so that appropriate and fair teaching assignments can be made.
- **Faculty misbehavior:** The ERC report notes incidents of inappropriate behavior by individual faculty. It is our opinion that such behavior is not a problem to be addressed by committee but rather by direct engagement of the Department's or Division's leadership with colleagues whose behavior is inappropriate and unprofessional.

ACTION: Chair Cohen will draft a cover letter and forward committee comments to the Vice Provost for Academic Planning.

C. Forward*: Draft Presidential Policy – Abusive Conduct/Bullying in the Workplace

Forwarded to the committees on Academic Freedom (ACFR); Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate (DECC); Faculty Welfare (FWEL); and Privilege and Tenure (P&T). DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for January 24, 2022.

D. Forward*: Draft Revised APM 025 and APM 671

Forwarded to the committees on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA); Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (BIR); and Faculty Welfare (FWEL). DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for January 24, 2022.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Student Mental Health 2020-21 annual report

B. Mitigating COVID-19 Impacts on Faculty Working Group Preliminary Report

C. Letter from Graduate Council to Deans re: Graduate programs using pre-matriculation credits, October 29, 2021

D. Letter from Arts & Humanities Chairs to Vice Chancellor of Administration re: Building Lock-out Policy, October 28, 2021

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

Recorder: Haniya Ferrell, Administrative Assistant