

APPROVED MINUTES
BERKELEY DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Monday, February 6, 2023 – 12:10-2:00 PM
Stephens Hall, Conference Room 310

Divisional Council (DIVCO) met on Monday, February 6, 2023 in Stephens Hall, room 310. Division Chair Mary Ann Smart presided. Quorum was present as shown on the attached attendance chart. The agenda was reordered to accommodate the guest for item V.B.

I. A. MINUTES of the meeting of January 23, 2023

Revisions were suggested for the minutes.

ACTION: The minutes were approved as revised.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Committee on Committees (COMS) nominations

B. DIVCO 2021-22 Annual Report

ACTION: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Division Chair Mary Ann Smart

Academic Council – President Drake and Provost Katherine Newman held a Q & A with Division Chairs at the January 25th Academic Council meeting.

Attestations – there are about 6,500 UAW employees, and as of last week about 800 attestations have been returned. About 250-300 of those had to be processed individually because they included extra information or were otherwise improperly submitted. No attestations have been received from faculty.

Message to faculty – The EVCP has drafted a message to faculty, which attempts to answer questions about support for research post-strike.

Post-strike recovery workgroups continue – Chair Smart is involved in the Instructional & Academic Planning and Faculty Experience workgroups, which have continued meeting. It remains to be seen whether the groups are the right entities to solve what needs to be solved.

Future of graduate education – Chair Smart and Vice Chair Auffhammer have been discussing the possibility of constituting a group of DIVCO members to tackle the issue of the future of graduate education.

Feb 24th *Pau Hana* – In light of the finished construction on Stephens, the Senate will be hosting a *Pau Hana* on Friday, February 24th.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion/action: Systemwide Senate Review of Presidential Policy – Developing and Maintaining Presidential Policies (“Policy on Policies”)

Chair Smart gave an overview of the main changes proposed in the revised policy, including the use of gender-neutral language, making policies accessible, and changing the required review period for policies from every three years to every five years.

DIVCO discussion focused on larger issues related to presidential policy, and especially the lack on any cost-benefit analysis when new policies are introduced and the increased staff and workload required by many policies. DIVCO members agreed that new policies from the Office of the President should be required to include an analysis of any additional staff or workload that will be needed to implement or enforce the policy.

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

B. Discussion only: Graduate Student Experience Post-Strike

Guest: Lisa García Bedolla, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate Division

Vice Provost García Bedolla began by acknowledging that this is a difficult and challenging time. She is currently leading the post-strike recovery workgroup for Campus Climate and Healing, along with the Vice Chancellor of Equity and Inclusion and the Assistant Vice Chancellor/Dean of Students. She asked DIVCO members to send her any suggestions/resources for the workgroup.

Communication has also been difficult, as things are constantly changing and department chairs do not always circulate information to faculty. UCOP is insisting on oversight of messages sent to faculty and students.

DIVCO discussion focused on ways faculty can provide feedback regarding communication, the attestation process, and the challenges of distinguishing between the educational components of graduate student experience and the parts of their work that are paid labor. DIVCO members also mentioned that it would be good idea to educate graduate students as to where their funding support comes from.

C. Discussion/action: UGC proposal for reporting transcript GPA

The Chair of Undergraduate Council (UGC) explained some of the context of this proposal. In the 2021-22 academic year, UGC produced a report on student experience in the wake of remote learning. Some areas of concern were identified, including cultures of teaching and learning on campus that the committee felt were detrimental to intellectual discovery on campus. Many students place a heavy emphasis on their GPA, as they believe it will affect the trajectory of their career. The spirit of this proposal is that the committee believes that there should be more emphasis placed on how students perform in the later stages of their degree programs, rather than on grades in the entry-level courses.

In the discussion that followed, a couple of members expressed a desire to see more data about the fundamental problem, as well as information about how other schools have addressed it. DIVCO members suggested that the real issue concerns excessive emphasis on grades and GPA in general, and that students can experience setbacks in academic performance at any point in their education, so that the emphasis here on GPA in lower-division courses might not address the true issue. Another DIVCO member shared that many internships place emphasis on students' GPAs, which is one of the reasons students are so focused on GPA.

D. Discussion only: DIVCO Collaboration with RTL/CTL

*Guests: Jenae Cohn, Executive Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning
Shawna Dark, Executive Director for Research, Teaching and Learning and Chief Academic Technology Officer
Erfan Mojjadam, Director of DevOps and Learning Spaces*

Chair Smart explained that the visits of these guests seemed timely in light of the recent reorganizations of the division of Research, Teaching and Learning (RTL) and the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) and of new developments in academic technology, especially during/after the pandemic and the strike.

Executive Director of RTL Shawna Dark explained the structure of RTL at Berkeley, stressing that her office is deeply connected to undergraduate education and available to help support instruction and research in ways that meet the needs of faculty and students. Dark shared that she would like to get a better sense of faculty needs and how to best support and protect faculty interests.

Jenae Cohn, Executive Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) described recent innovations in CTL, including the ongoing search for an inclusive teaching team to support the creation of equitable classroom spaces. She stressed that CTL staff are eager to hear from faculty on what critical concerns and questions are guiding their teaching practices.

Erfan Mojjadam, Director of DevOps and Learning Spaces explained that his role is to assist in managing the learning technology side of RTL. A lot has been learned about instructional technology in the past three years. Mojjadam also shared his goal, which was to hear from faculty about what has worked and what hasn't – with both physical spaces and the numerous digital spaces.

In the discussion that followed, some items that arose were: the response rate and format of teaching evaluations; the possibility of RTL/CTL helping to train faculty in strategies in inclusive teaching for neurodiverse students; the tendency to prioritize compliance over pedagogy in the selection and procurement of technological platforms; and the potential role of RTL/CTL in helping faculty members pivot and become more efficient in post-strike conditions.

I. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Comments on Systemwide Review of University of California Policy on Vaccination Programs – with Interim Amendments

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.
Recorder: Haniya Ferrell, Administrative Assistant

DIVCO – ATTENDANCE, SPRING 2023

DIVCO MEMBERS	1/23/23	2/6/23	2/27/23	3/12/23	3/20/23	4/3/23	4/17/23	5/8/23
Aguilera, Adrian	P	A						
Ashmore, Robert	P	P						
Auffhammer, Maximilian	P	P						
Berrick, Jill Duerr	P	P						
Boering, Kristie	A	P						
Doremus, Holly	P							
Fernald, Lia	P	P						
Fischer, Felix	P	P						
Gilless, J. Keith*	A	A						
Ginsborg, Hannah	P	P						
Glaunsinger, Britt	P	P						
Hoofnagle, Chris	P	P						
Leonard, Thomas	A	P						
Luo, Kunxin	P	P						
Olney, Martha	P	P						
Philip, Thomas	A	P						
Smart, Mary Ann	P	P						
Sweetser, Eve	P	P						
Wymore, Lisa	P	P						
Wallace, Nancy	P							
INVITED GUESTS *	1/23/23	2/6/23	2/27/23	3/12/23	3/20/23	4/3/23	4/17/23	5/8/23
García Bedolla, Lisa		P						
Cohn, Jenae		P						

Dark, Shawna		P						
Mojjadam, Erfan		P						

SENATE STAFF	1/23/23	2/6/23	2/27/23	3/12/23	3/20/23	4/3/23	4/17/23	5/8/23
Allen, Patrick								
Banaria, Jocelyn Surla	P	P						
Corley, Linda								
Dobin, Deborah								
Ferrell, Haniya	P	P						
Lynch, William								
MacIntyre, Courtney								
Marias Dezendorf, Rachel								
Mitchell, Lanayah								
Quiggle, Sumei								

P=Present A=Absent * Non-voting