

**APPROVED MINUTES  
BERKELEY DIVISIONAL COUNCIL  
Monday, March 16, 2020 – 12:00-2:00 PM  
310 Stephens Hall**

Divisional Council (DIVCO) met on Monday, March 16, 2020, in 310 Stephens Hall and by videoconference. A coronavirus pandemic had been declared and several members chose to participate via *Zoom* videoconferencing. A quorum was recorded as shown on the attached attendance chart. Reordering of the agenda was approved to accommodate a guest from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions for Item II.C.

Division Chair Oliver O'Reilly presided until 1 p.m. when he left for a Crisis Management Meeting (CMT) on the pandemic. Division Vice Chair Jennifer Johnson-Hanks presided after his departure. The DIVCO meeting was cut short due to a shelter-in-place order that had been announced during the meeting, and only urgent items were discussed.

**I. MINUTES**

**A. Minutes of the February 24, 2020 meeting**

*Enclosure 1*

**ACTION:** The minutes were approved as presented.

**II. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Distinguished Teaching Award nominations**

*Handout A*

The Committee on Teaching nominated four faculty for the 2020 Distinguished Teaching Awards: Nadia Ellis (English); Marla Feller (Molecular and Cell Biology); Alexander Paulin (Mathematics); and Brody Reiman (Art Practice). Their accomplishments were detailed in the nomination letter.

**ACTION:** The nominations for the 2020 Distinguished Teaching Awards were approved as presented.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Division Chair O'Reilly announced that a curtailment of campus activities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 had been ordered to begin in 72 hours and instruction would also be moved to remote formats. All committees were asked to meet by *Zoom* videoconferencing from this time on.

Three proposals from the Council of Undergraduate Deans (CUD) on grading for Spring 2020 would be coming to DIVCO after review by the Committee on Courses of Instruction (COCI). A proposal was also under consideration at the systemwide Academic Senate to grant divisional authority on grading and exams in Spring 2020 due to the health crisis.

**III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Discussion of GSI Work and Compensation Issues**

Graduate Council (GC) Chair John Battles presented an update on the UC Santa Cruz graduate student instructors' (GSI) wildcat strike over compensation. DIVCO's FAQ document revised at the March 9 meeting had since been finalized and posted on the Senate website. Some Berkeley GSIs are recommending a work

stoppage. Division Chair O'Reilly reported on a Graduate Division town hall held the previous week with some department chairs.

It was moved that DIVCO prepare a statement on faculty non-retaliation and show general support for graduate students. Some suggested that the COVID-19 health crisis and shelter-in-place would disrupt strike planning so this could be revisited when normal operations resumed. Others countered that students are distressed and need to hear support from the Senate.

**ACTION:** Divisional Council agreed, by consensus, to prepare a brief statement expressing solidarity with graduate students and support for non-retaliation.

A draft statement would be presented to Divisional Council at a later date.

**B. CAPRA recommendations on financial reform**

This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Last Strategic Initiative on the Future — Light the Way**

*Enclosures 2a – 2c*

This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

**B. Electronic Intelligent Systems specialization**

*Enclosures 3a – 3c*

This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

**C. Academic Council's Standardized Testing Task Force report**

<https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/underreview/sttf-report.pdf>

*Enclosures 4a – 4b*

Professor Ignacio Navarrete, chair of the Committee on Admissions, Enrollment, and Preparatory Education (AEPE), introduced AEPE's comments. The committee supported the recommendations of the task force to continue the use of standardized testing in the undergraduate admissions process. AEPE agreed that the tests may provide additional, valuable information on students, particularly within their local context. Guest Abby Jones, Deputy Director of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, briefly described the undergraduate admissions process.

Divisional Council commended AEPE for the effort and thought put into this topic. Some council members, however, differed from AEPE on the recommendations of the task force. Some of the points discussed included the following:

- The SAT is inherently biased and poses an extra expense for students. These factors can create barriers for disadvantaged and low-income students.
- Improving retention efforts on campus and other mechanisms for supporting student success were preferred.
- It was also pointed out that the creation of a replacement test would take a number of years, and at a very high cost that UC may not be able to afford in the current fiscal environment.

Some members expressed deep concern for low-income students and those from areas where there is low financial support that doesn't enable primary and secondary-level schools to provide better college preparation.

Council did not come to consensus on the task force's recommendations and agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

**D. Systemwide BOARS' recommendation to eliminate SAT-ACT essay requirement**

*Enclosures 5a – 5b*

This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

**III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. Proposed Presidential Policy on Protection of Human Subjects**

*Forwarded to the Committee on Research. DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for May 11, 2020.*

**B. Proposed Presidential Policy on Travel Regulations**

*Forwarded to the Committee on Faculty Welfare for comment (and to the committees on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation and Research). DIVCO discussion tentatively scheduled for May 11, 2020.*

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

Recorder: M. Kwock, Assistant to the Chair

Handout A: [Committee on Teaching] Report on the Selection of Distinguished Teaching Award Recipients, March 12, 2020.

**DIVCO – ATTENDANCE, SPRING 2020**

DIVCO MEMBERS	1/27/20	2/10/20	2/24/20	3/9/20	3/16/20	3/30/20	4/13/20	4/27/20	5/11/20
Ahn, David	P	P	P	A	P				
Ashmore, Robert	P	P	P	P	P				
Battles, John	P	A	P	P	P				
Boering, Kristie			P	P	P				
Carson, Cathryn	P	P	P	P	P				
Colford, Jack	P	P	P	P	P				
Fine, Paul	P	P	P	A	P				
Gilless, J. Keith	P	P	P	P	P				
Hollinger, David	P	A	P	P	P				
Johnson-Hanks, Jennifer	P	P	P	P	P				
Levy, Jonah	P	P	P	P	P				
Levine, Ross	P	P	P	A	P				
Lye, Colleen	P	P	P	P	P				
Navarrete, Ignacio	P	P	P	P	P				
Ngai, John	A	P	A	P	P				
O'Reilly, Oliver	P	P	P	P	P				
Sanyal, Debarati	P	P	P	P	P				
Scheffler, Richard	A	Resigned							
Smart, Mary Ann	P	P	P	P	P				
Wagner, David	P	P	P	P	P				

INVITED GUESTS *	1/27/20	2/10/20	2/24/20	3/9/20	3/16/20	3/30/20	4/13/20	4/27/20	5/11/20
May, Robert	P								
Bhavnani, Kum-Kum		P							
Gauvain, Mary		P							
Hlusko, Leslea		P							
Boering, Kristie			P						
Langan, Celeste				P					
Ogundele, Olufemi				P					
Jones, Abby				P	P				
SENATE STAFF	1/27/20	2/10/20	2/24/20	3/9/20	3/16/20	3/30/20	4/13/20	4/27/20	5/11/20
Banaria, Jocelyn Surla	P	P	P	P	P				
Kwock, Marilyn	P	P	P	P	P				

P=Present A=Absent \* Non-voting