

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF BERKELEY DIVISIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday, March 18, 2020 – 5:00-6:00 PM**  
**Videoconference**

Divisional Council (DIVCO) held a special meeting by *Zoom* videoconference on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, to provide additional time for discussion at the onset of the shelter-in-place due to the coronavirus pandemic. Division Chair O'Reilly's requests to extend the meeting by one hour and to reorder the agenda were approved. A quorum was recorded as shown on the attached attendance chart.

**I. MINUTES**

None

**II. CONSENT CALENDAR**

None

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

*Materials were included in the agenda packet for 3/16/20.*

Professor Ignacio Navarrete, chair of the Committee on Admissions, Enrollment, and Preparatory Education (AEPE), presented this item. The UC system is among less than 20 institutions nationwide requiring the written exam. AEPE does not feel the written exam provides much predictive value and endorses the recommendation.

**ACTION:** Divisional Council authorized Division Chair O'Reilly to forward its endorsement to Academic Council.

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

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

*Materials were included in the agenda packet for 3/16/20.*

Discussion on this item was continued from the March 16 meeting. AEPE Chair Navarrete emphasized the serious thought that AEPE had put into the task force's report.

Numerous council members commended AEPE for their work on this issue. Several spoke in support of the continued use of standardized testing, valuing it as a tool, even with its flaws. A few members of council were strongly against the continued use of standardized testing due to inherent biases and its cost to the applicant. It was suggested that the Senate focus on improving student outcomes and increasing diversity. Several members who supported the continued use of standardized testing also agreed with these recommendations.

**ACTION:** Divisional Council authorized Division Chair O'Reilly to forward comments to Academic Council.

**C. Electronic Intelligent Systems specialization**

*Materials were included in the agenda packet for 3/16/20.*

There was general support of the specialization with some particular concerns expressed:

- The proposal would be inaccessible to transfer students without more time allowed.
- The proposal should be updated to address the data science major that has since been established, and potential student interest.
- Some members were concerned about the ability of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences to handle the additional workload.

**ACTION:** Divisional Council authorized Division Chair O'Reilly to forward comments to the vice provost for the faculty.

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

*Materials were included in the agenda packet for 3/16/20.*

Council members were generally supportive of the initiative, although commenting that it was more aspirational than directed. Fundraising for graduate students was widely supported, but several members spoke in favor of enhancing existing graduate student packages first. It was noted that undergraduate students were not addressed in the initiative.

**E. Divisional Council statement on financial reform**

This item was not considered due to lack of time.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Proposal for Grading for Spring 2020 due to the coronavirus**

*Enclosure 1 and Handouts A-B*

Division Chair O'Reilly described this proposal as an emergency measure in response to this week's sudden campus curtailment and shift to remote instruction due to the pandemic. The proposal (Handout A) would suspend some regulations for Spring 2020 only, making all classes Pass/Not Pass (P/NP) without limit which would still count toward degrees. Students would be permitted to request a letter grade beyond the normal deadline. The division had been authorized by the systemwide Academic Council to apply any emergency Spring 2020 grading policies.

The Committee on Courses of Instruction (COCI) had already coordinated the proposal with the colleges and the dean of undergraduate studies. The administration had also been informed. Due to the extenuating circumstances, normal Senate emergency policy could not be followed and Division Chair O'Reilly asked Divisional Council to approve the proposal for Spring 2020 in the spirit of the law.

Council members observed that the sudden move to remote instruction had presented many difficulties for both students and instructors, and they

supported some accommodation even if the proposal did not resolve all possible problems or situations.

It was recognized that although the proposal did not apply to graduate courses, this could have implications for graduate education, so messaging must be carefully worded.

**ACTION:** Divisional Council unanimously approved the grading proposal for Spring 2020 only.

## VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### A. Faculty Information on GSI Work and Compensation Issues

[https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/gc\\_faculty\\_information\\_for\\_a\\_gsi\\_strike\\_03.11.20.pdf](https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/gc_faculty_information_for_a_gsi_strike_03.11.20.pdf)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.  
Recorder: M. Kwock, Assistant to the Chair

Handout A: [DIVCO spring 2020 grading policy, 3-18-20.]

Handout B: COCI Comments on "Proposal for Grading in the Spring 2020 Semester,"  
March 18, 2020

**DIVCO – ATTENDANCE, SPRING 2020**

DIVCO MEMBERS	1/27/20	2/10/20	2/24/20	3/9/20	3/16/20	3/18/20 Special Meeting	3/30/20	4/13/20	4/27/20	5/11/20
Ahn, David	P	P	P	A	P	P				
Ashmore, Robert	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Battles, John	P	A	P	P	P	P				
Boering, Kristie			P	P	P	P				
Carson, Cathryn	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Colford, Jack	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Fine, Paul	P	P	P	A	P	P				
Gilles, J. Keith	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Hollinger, David	P	A	P	P	P	P				
Johnson-Hanks, Jennifer	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Levy, Jonah	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Levine, Ross	P	P	P	A	P	A				
Lye, Colleen	P	P	P	P	P	A				
Navarrete, Ignacio	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Ngai, John	A	P	A	P	P	P				
O'Reilly, Oliver	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Sanyal, Debarati	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Scheffler, Richard	A	Resigned								
Smart, Mary Ann	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Wagner, David	P	P	P	P	P	P				

INVITED GUESTS *	1/27/20	2/10/20	2/24/20	3/9/20	3/16/20	3/18/20 Special Meeting	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	3/18/20 Special Meeting	3/30/20	4/13/20	4/27/20	5/11/20
Banaria, Jocelyn Surla	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Kwock, Marilyn	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Quiggle, Sumei						P				
Tuchrello, Sumali						P				

P=Present    A=Absent    \* Non-voting