

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**BERKELEY DIVISIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Monday, April 25, 2022 – 12:10-2:00 PM**  
**South Hall, Room 205**

Divisional Council (DIVCO) met on Monday, April 25, 2022 in 205 South Hall. Division Chair Ronald Cohen presided. Quorum was present, as shown on the attached attendance chart. The agenda was reordered to accommodate the guest.

**I. A. MINUTES** of the meeting of April 11, 2022

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

**II. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Sports and Well-Being Graduate Certificate Proposal**

**ACTION:** The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Climate memorial to the Regents:

At the last Assembly meeting, it was agreed to send a memorial for a vote by the full faculty of UC. The vote will be administered at the campus level, and the result will be decided by a majority vote of the faculties of the 10 campuses. The text of memorial, which was revised during the Assembly meeting, will read “We ask the Regents to support reducing on-campus CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 40% of present-day levels by 2030 and to 5% of present-day levels by 2035.”

Spring Division meeting:

The Spring meeting of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in Banatao Auditorium in Sutardja Dai Hall. For the main agenda item, the leaders of the campus energy system will be speaking to the Senate about the replacement of campus cogeneration plant. This replacement will be a crucial element of Berkeley’s contribution to the emissions reductions called for in the proposed memorial.

Academic Council:

The next Academic Council meeting is Wednesday, May 25. Agenda items include COVID-19 impact statements, pension education for new faculty, thresholds and criteria for review of online undergraduate degrees, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) statements in higher education.

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None**

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Discussion only: Division of Equity and Inclusion Update**

*Guest: Dania Matos, Vice Chancellor of Equity and Inclusion*

Vice Chancellor Matos began with an overview of the Division of Equity and Inclusion (E&I), as well as a brief history. E&I works to reshape and influence policies and practices that increase opportunities, advance social justice, and create equitable experiences for faculty, staff and students. E&I oversees several initiatives, including the African American (AA) initiative, Disability Justice, and the Latinx Thriving Initiative (LTI), which is currently in phase one of development.

Leadership in E&I are meeting with deans and department chairs individually to reconsider diversity initiatives and create new ways to integrate E&I into departments and divisions.

The ensuing discussion touched on several points. The use of the word “curriculum” implies to many direct teaching on DEIBJ topics, which is not an option for most who teach STEM courses. VCEI Matos explained that curriculum design also encompasses practices that all faculty could engage in, including inclusive engagement strategies, the examples chosen for discussion in classes, the selection of study materials by authors that represent a diverse range in terms of race, ethnicity, and gender, and even the selection of music played in labs. Other issues raised by DIVCO members included addressing issues of class and poverty in relation to E&I efforts, thinking about students with disabilities, and the need for funding and structures of lateral engagement for E&I. Vice Chancellor Matos posed the question of how the Senate and E&I can work together, and would like to return to DIVCO for further discussion on collaborative ideas.

**B. Discussion/action: Master in Computational Social Science Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Program (SSGPDP)**

DIVCO’s discussion of the proposal centered on the following issues:

- One of the overarching issues with SSGPDPs is campus space, and some DIVCO members thought the space plan for this program was not sufficiently worked-out. The proposers of this program are looking into an off-campus space as a possible option.
- DIVCO discussed the tension between the necessity of teaching by Senate faculty (necessary to ensure the program is Berkeley quality) and the added burden on faculty workload. Some members noted that even when faculty voluntarily take on overload teaching the time they devote to it will necessarily subtract time from some other area of effort, with likely effects on core teaching commitments and/or research achievements.
- The possibility was raised that this program could function as an extension of the undergraduate curriculum, as a fifth-year Masters program for current Berkeley undergraduates. This idea had wide support.

DIVCO endorsed the proposal.

As many of the issues discussed were not particular to this program, but have been common trends in previous reviews of SSGPDPs, DIVCO asked Chair Cohen to convene a small task force to develop a set of best practices for SSGPDPs. These guidelines would

be shared with those proposing new programs, in the hope of preventing potential problems with space, workload, cost, etc. before they arise.

**ACTION:** DIVCO authorized Chair Cohen to draft a cover letter summarizing committee discussion and forward it to the Vice Provost for the Faculty.

**C. Proposal for UCB committee on Climate change**

Chair Cohen summarized the proposal from a group of Berkeley faculty to create a standing Academic Senate committee devoted to the issue of climate change. Informed by committee comments and previous conversations on the issues, Chair Cohen suggested two routes of possible action: (1) divide the scope of this proposed committee among the pre-existing standing committees, or (2) create a taskforce or subcommittee of DIVCO for two years, and evolve it into a standing committee if it is successful. Neither was immediately endorsed by DIVCO.

DIVCO members strongly supported some kind of action. The discussion ranged widely over possible approaches, as well as current and past campus groups intended to solve the same problems as this committee (e.g. the Berkeley Institute for the Environment (BIE), The Berkeley Energy and Climate Initiative (BECI) and the current Berkeley Climate Change Network (BCCN). All of these had faculty engagement and many also had faculty leadership. As some in the room felt significant resources are needed for the effort to be successful, administrative structures were discussed briefly, including appointing a Vice Chancellor for Climate or forming a School of Climate.

DIVCO members were most supportive of a committee focused on campus energy use either as a subcommittee of CAPRA or as a stand-alone committee. Members did not reach consensus on a strategy for senate engagement in faculty research or curriculum.

This item will be continued to the next DIVCO meeting on May 9, 2022.

**D. Discussion/action: Proposed Memorial to the Regents re: reduction of on-campus fossil fuel combustion**

*Memorial approved at the April 13, 2022 Assembly meeting.* This item was covered in the Chair's announcements.

**E. Discussion only: Committee updates – CAPRA, COR**

Due to time, DIVCO was unable to discuss this item. It will be continued to the next DIVCO meeting on May 9, 2022.

**VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – None**

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

Recorder: Haniya Ferrell, Administrative Assistant



P=Present   A=Absent   \* Non-voting