



320 STEPHENS HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

May 3, 2019

ETHAN LIGON
Chair, Committee on Computing and Information Technology

Subject: Proposal on WiFi improvement funding

Dear Ethan,

On April 15, 2019, Divisional Council (DIVCO) discussed the Committee on Computing and Information Technology's proposal regarding funding WiFi improvements on campus. Our discussion was informed by commentary from the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA), which is appended.

While DIVCO agrees with CAPRA's overarching principle opposing budgeting by special case, we also discussed the importance of reliable, high-quality WiFi for the campus. Accordingly, we have asked CAPRA to note in its annual budget recommendations, that WiFi should be considered a common good, similar to campus libraries, and "should be folded into comprehensively budgeted common goods spending in the future."

Sincerely,

Barbara Spackman
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
Cecchetti Professor of Italian Studies and Professor of Comparative Literature

Encl.

Cc: Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, Chair, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation
Deborah Dobin, Senate Analyst, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation



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March 21, 2019

PROFESSOR BARBARA SPACKMAN
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

*Re: CAPRA comments on a proposal to increase funding
for WiFi infrastructure*

On March 20, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) discussed the request from IS&T for additional funding to upgrade WiFi infrastructure on campus, including the letter of support from Senate Committee on Computing and Information Technology. CAPRA agrees that sustaining the WiFi network is a high priority, alongside other common good infrastructure priorities. We recognize that our demands on the WiFi infrastructure have grown considerably, and that technological advancement comes at a cost. At the same time, CAPRA opposes budgeting by special case. We believe that this request for funds should be considered alongside others, considering the tradeoffs that each implies. For example, if campus were to increase funding for the WiFi network, would that come at the expense of salary increases in IS&T (in the budget of the same AVC)? At the expense of investments in facilities and grounds (in the budget of the same VC)? At the expense of investments in undergraduate education (in the campus budget generally)?

CAPRA members also wondered whether the move underway toward a more metrics-informed approach to common goods budgeting might be relevant to how campus should respond to this request. Surely maintaining the WiFi network at an acceptable level is part of sustaining the core infrastructure of the campus. That suggests that these costs should be folded into comprehensively budgeted common goods spending in the future.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Johnson-Hanks'.

Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, Chair
Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation