

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BERKELEY DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

The Fall meeting of the Berkeley Division was called to order at 3:10 p.m. on Thursday, October 29, 2020 via *Zoom* videoconference. Professor Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, Chair of the Berkeley Division, presided. Quorum was confirmed before the meeting commenced. The agenda was reordered to accommodate guests.

I. Minutes

Enclosure 1

ACTION: The minutes of the April 30, 2020 meeting of the Division were approved as presented.

II. Announcements by the President

President Michael V. Drake was unable to attend.

III. Other Announcements

A. Chancellor Carol Christ

The Chancellor acknowledged how difficult of a time this is for everyone, with a number of people confronting very difficult home situations. With that, she thanked everyone for their work, dedication and creativity, and also urged everyone to be compassionate with students, who are under enormous stress.

During the week of October 19, 2019, there were 2,600 COVID-19 tests administered, and only two of which tested positive. She expressed her concentration on getting the cost of testing down. The ability to be face-to-face depends on the ability to do testing. There will be a COVID-19 exposure app to be released in November, which will notify users if they have been in an area with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The campus is working on a phased reopening. Research labs were opened at 25% capacity in June 2020, and that is being hoped to increase to 40% in November 2020. In addition, Athletics winter sports have begun, and five outdoor instructional pilots will begin in spring 2021.

The budget deficit that we are projecting from the beginning of March 2020 to June 2021 is about \$340,000,000. A lot of budget losses are in auxiliaries, and she is committed to keeping budget losses there. There have been no budget losses in core campus. There is also a budget shortfall in COVID-19 related expenses such as: testing, extra cleaning, and remote instruction. There has been an enrollment drop of about 800 students, which is about a \$15,000,000 drop in revenue as well as a reduction in state funding of \$50,000,000.

The primary goal now is to not damage the enterprise. We try can rebalancing reserves that are unequally held across campus, or impose a moratorium on the off-cycle of budget

group. HR involvement is crucial during this crisis. Some strategies that have been thought about are: voluntary reductions in time, early retirement for faculty, curtailment, and layoffs. Layoffs are a last resort, but it is unclear what the Regents and UCOP will choose to do in regards to curtailment. There is also a soft freeze on hiring in place during this time. They are in the process of constructing a committee composed of administrative members, Senate members, and several deans to think about bridging strategies and thinking long-term.

There has been very good success in increasing research activities and monetization of intellectual property. We need to focus on targeted enrollment growth, as enrollment is the number one revenue source for campus that we control. Targeted enrollment strategies as well as an international strategy are still to be figured out, as the current Presidential administration has made it difficult for international students. There is hope that remote instruction will be a robust source of revenue.

Finally, there is an exciting opportunity to combine Berkeley campus with Mills College. If we were to achieve merger with Mills, it would double the size of campus. While the instinct now is to only focus on emergency, it is equally as important to be focused on the day after to come out of this pandemic strong.

B. Berkeley Division Chair Jennifer Johnson-Hanks

Division Chair Johnson-Hanks spoke about the salient uncertainty of the future, describing the state of the entire campus as being in a “vital conjuncture.” A vital conjuncture conjoins several domains, and this conjoining provides an abundance of structure. People orient themselves through their values, so a vital conjuncture always ends.

Division Chair Johnson-Hanks briefly mentioned the Senate newsletter, *The Fortnightly*, and informed members how to sign up to receive an emailed copy of each edition. She thanked Senate staff, committee Chairs, members, previous Senate Chairs and Division Vice Chair Ron Cohen. She also thanked Senate members for writing to her and urged them to keep writing to her with questions, comments, and ideas.

C. ASUC Academic Affairs Vice President Nicole Anyanwu

Vice President Anyanwu expressed that she is addressing the Division as not only a voice for students, but as someone who has personal knowledge of what students are currently experiencing. She stated that she has received over 1,600 testimonials from students in the last month, and shared a couple of those testimonials with the Senate. The ASUC asks that students be given the option to take as many pass/no pass classes as they need this semester due to the burdens that the pandemic has placed on students. Vice President Anyanwu challenged everyone to center the narratives of the most vulnerable student communities, and thanked faculty for their efforts so far as well as the Division for their time.

Chair Johnson-Hanks explained that the Undergraduate Council (UGC) and the Committee on Courses of Instruction (COCI) are addressing pass/no pass grading. The

Divisional Council (DIVCO) may comment, but ultimately the decision is up to the schools and colleges.

IV. Special Orders-Consent Calendar

*For proposed legislative amendments, **additions** to the current text are noted by an underline; **deletions** to the current text are noted by a strikethrough line. Per Division bylaws the consent calendar is approved in the absence of a quorum.*

A. Proposed revision to Berkeley Division Bylaw 15 (Assembly Representation)

The Committee on Committees (COMS) proposes a revision to the bylaw to bring it into alignment with the way other Division appointments are made. COMS, rather than the Division Chair, should appoint alternates to Assembly Representation (AREP). The Committee on Rules and Elections reviewed the proposed revision and found it to be consonant with Berkeley Division legislation. Divisional Council also approved the proposed revision.

15. ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATION (Am. 10.25.94, 4.24.08) Membership

This Committee consists of:

- Chair of the Division, who is its Chair;
- Those other members of the Division who are *ex officio* members of the Assembly of the Academic Senate;
- Appointed Divisional representatives to the Assembly (as prescribed in Senate By-Law 105.A.4) appointed for two-year staggered terms; at least half of whom shall be elected members of the Divisional Council; and
- At least six alternate Divisional Representatives, designated by the ~~Division Chair~~ Committee on Committees to serve in the absence of a regular Representative. (Legislative Ruling 4.71)

ACTION: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

V. Reports of Special Committees (None)

VI. Reports of Standing Committees (None)

VII. Petitions of Students (None)

VIII. Unfinished Business (None)

IX. University and Faculty Welfare (Discussion only)

A. Budget update

Rosemarie Rae, Vice Chancellor-Finance and Chief Financial Officer

Vice Chancellor Rae explained that they are now bringing the multi-year budget process to a close. She also acknowledged the great difficulty that schools and colleges have had to meet budget goals. Vice Chancellor Rae then outlined what the recovery period is, which is where the campus moves from fiscal year 2021 to fiscal year 2023. Auxiliaries should recover very quickly once campus becomes operational, but loss of state funding will likely take several years to recover. There is concern that by the time campus gets to fiscal year 2023, a large amount of the operational budget will be depleted. The campus entered COVID on a balanced budget, while frail, and cannot endure another budget reduction. Any other options that are available to campus are being taken into consideration. Details regarding the budget are posted on Berkeley's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) website.

Vice Chancellor Rae thanked the Academic Senate, specifically the Committee on Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) for all of their hard work, and also thanked them in advance as they begin to start a deeper planning process.

B. Spring 2021 Instruction update

Paul Alivisatos, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

EVCP Alivisatos began by acknowledging ASUC Vice President Anyanwu's comments. Student leadership has been working tirelessly and has raised powerful voices. Spring 2021 will be the third semester in a row of extreme disruption to education. Campus leadership has conducted pulse surveys for students. In the first survey, students mainly mentioned technical difficulties. In most recent surveys, mental health is a huge issue among students, and fall enrollment is 98% of usual enrollment.

During summer, "Semester in the Cloud" classes were created and over 6,000 hotspots were issued to students to assist with remote education. There will also be five outdoor pilot instruction classes: string ensemble, fieldwork, research group meetings, co-curricular events by Haas, and one-time meetings with international students so that their visas may be certified.

EVCP Alivisatos mentioned the remote proctoring pilot that began in fall 2020 that is being used during remote instruction.

C. Public Health and Testing update

Guy Nicolette, Assistant Vice Chancellor-University Health Services

Assistant Vice Chancellor Nicolette addressed the surges of COVID-19 in parts of Europe as well as the United States. While California is not to these surges, some counties seem to be starting back up. Very locally, Alameda County doesn't seem to be experiencing resurgence but it is very possible.

On campus, there has been no increase in positivity rate; there have actually been decreases. Over 40,000 tests have been administered to campus so far, and it is low positivity rate and the amount of testing that caused public health officials to grant request for outdoor instruction pilots.

University Health Services has gone above and beyond what is needed for contact tracing, and they are looking at compliance numbers for outdoor instruction pilots. There is still capacity to collect even more samples; about 15,000 samples per week or about 3,000 samples a day. Vice Chancellor Nicolette encouraged Senate members to sign up for COVID-19 testing using the eTang portal.

IX. New Business (None)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

J. Keith Gilless
Secretary, Berkeley Division