

CalMessage 11/23/20

Dear Colleagues,

I am calling an emergency meeting of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate in order to vote on two motions related to allowing temporary grading flexibility for our students during the times of COVID-19. I have been deeply moved by the generosity of spirit I have seen all across campus as you have sought to show compassion for our students, consistent with the aim of the DIVCO statement on grading of November 2. The two motions on which we will vote continue that spirit. The Notice and Order of Business can be found at [\[this link\]](#).

We need to hold this meeting because legislative matters can only be decided by a vote of the Division. Although the Division has delegated authority about the use of P/NP units in majors to the faculties of the schools and colleges (under BDR A204.B), there are other constraints buried in our 109 pages of bylaws and regulations that are hindering some programs from offering students the kind of supports that they would like to. Changing those, even temporarily, is a legislative matter. In the spring, the Senate declared an emergency and overrode our own rules in order to rapidly act to support our students, but we stated that should any additional changes to bylaws or regulations be necessary, we would follow ordinary procedure. This meeting is part of that ordinary procedure.

Both motions make temporary changes to accommodate students during the crisis. The first is the most urgent, as it temporarily lifts two specific restrictions (in BDR 556) on grading options for College of Engineering, enabling them to comply with the spirit of the DIVCO statement. The second motion temporarily allows DIVCO to make any similar kinds of adjustments that arise in response to explicit requests from the colleges or schools, as long as they are consistent with the spirit of supporting our students' success and last only for the 2020-21 academic year. The purpose of this second motion is to avoid having to call any additional special or emergency meetings of the Division, and therefore to be able to respond to the needs of the students in a more agile manner.

The meeting will take place on Monday, November 30th, 10:00-11:00am via *Zoom* videoconference. I hope very much that you will be able to attend this meeting, and thank you for your continued engagement with the Academic Senate.

Sincerely,

Jenna Johnson-Hanks
Professor of Demography and Sociology
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate (2020-21)

This message was sent to Academic Senate members.
Inquiries and replies to this message should be directed to acad_sen@berkeley.edu