

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BERKELEY DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021

The fall meeting of the Berkeley Division was called to order at 3:10 p.m. on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, via *Zoom* videoconference. Professor Ronald C. Cohen, Chair of the Berkeley Division, presided. A quorum of 50 Senate members was confirmed and the agenda was approved.

I. Minutes

Minutes of the April 29, 2021 meeting of the Division (Enclosure 1)

ACTION: The minutes of the April 29, 2021 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 began with thanks for the hard work by faculty and staff during the early phases of the pandemic, and noted the new challenges during the transition back to on-campus instruction. She noted the public health status on the day of the meeting as one with low caseloads and support for masking. She then called attention to the emotional impact of the pandemic and the trauma that many have faced during the last two years. Those who are new to campus, including freshmen, sophomores, and first- and second-year transfer students, have not been able to create community in the way they would have during on-campus learning. She highlighted these and other challenges of returning to in-person instruction.

Chancellor Christ touched on campus highlights over the last year. These included the award of a Nobel Prize to David Card, professor of Economics, the change in college ranking methodology by *Forbes* to include core Berkeley values of scale, affordability, and access (resulting in Berkeley's number 1 ranking in the *Forbes* list), and dramatic improvements in our admission of underrepresented groups. In 2021, Berkeley admitted its most diverse freshman class in 31 years, increasing diversity at both the freshman and transfer levels.

The state has restored the 10 percent cut in UC's core budget, and increased it by 5 percent. The campus received over \$80 million from federal COVID relief programs. Campus received a record \$1 billion in federal research funding, and \$500 million in private and state funding. The campus expects a balanced fiscal budget this year.

Finally, the Regents have approved the campus's Long-Range Development plan.

B. Berkeley Division Chair Ronald Cohen

Chair Cohen remarked on the ways that perspectives have been changed throughout the pandemic, and returning to campus with a fresh perspective on what each individual appreciates most about Berkeley. Chair Cohen used the analogy of “a slow-moving natural disaster” to describe the impact of the pandemic on campus and community. He emphasized opportunities to rebuild the social fabric of the University, suggesting that some structures should be rebuilt in their original forms and others approached as opportunities to renew and improve on past practices. (The full text of his remarks are posted to the Senate website: https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/rebuilding_berkeley_division_meeting_0.pdf)

C. Graduate Assembly President Maria Pettis

Graduate Assembly President Maria Pettis was unable to attend.

IV. Special Orders-Consent Calendar (None)

V. Reports of Special Committees (None)

VI. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Committee on Rules and Elections (written report only – Enclosure 2)

VII. Petitions of Students (None)

VIII. Unfinished Business (None)

IX. University and Faculty Welfare (Discussion only)

A. Recruitment, Retention, and Support for Success at Berkeley

Division Vice Chair Mary Ann Smart moderated. The panelists were: Olufemi Ogundele, Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management and Dean of Undergraduate Admissions; Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, Executive Dean of the College of Letters and Science; Lisa García Bedolla, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate Division; and Anne Baranger, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the College of Chemistry.

Associate Vice Chancellor Ogundele provided updates on undergraduate admissions and enrollment (for the entering class of Fall 2021), including:

- a 28% increase in applications, the most in Berkeley's history;
- 2.4% increase in yield for freshmen and a 1.2% increase for yield in transfer students;
- expansion of admissions and recruitment events to locations that have not traditionally sent students to Berkeley.

Executive Dean Johnson-Hanks spoke to the topic of supports for success at Cal. Letters and Science (L&S) is home to nearly half of campus faculty and one-third of undergraduates. Dean Johnson-Hanks spoke briefly about the history of the liberal arts education, before moving on to discuss current challenges of resources, scale, and the educational inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic.

She outlined two potential new strategies for supporting student learning, inviting comments and suggestions:

1. The possibility of creating an L&S-centered, cohort-based, integrated first-year curriculum. This would be an optional program for first-year students with cohorts of size ~300-500 organized around broad interdisciplinary themes.
2. Altering the Introduction to L&S course to cover topics such as time management, wellness, the honor code, and consent.

Vice Provost García Bedolla offered an overview of the Graduate Division's recruitment programs and resources: the Graduate Diversity Admissions fair; the Diversity Community Fellows Program; the Graduate Application Hackathon, and the Getting into Graduate School (GiGS) program. She went on to describe her priorities for the Division in support of graduate student success:

- establishing a five-year \$34,000 minimum funding guarantee for all doctoral students;
- increasing access to affordable housing;
- expanding funding for and access to basic needs for graduate students.

Associate Dean Baranger discussed work the College of Chemistry has done to improve climate. Her discussion started with a review of outcomes from the graduate-student-initiated climate survey and the community discussion that resulted from it. Among the most important findings from the survey were that:

- impostor syndrome affected the entire Chemistry community;
- faculty experience the highest sense of belonging;
- teaching is a source of community for entering graduate students,
- women and members of underrepresented groups felt less belonging;
- all members of the community agreed on the importance of increasing diversity.

X. New Business (None)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

J. Keith Gilles
Secretary, Berkeley Division