



320 STEPHENS HALL

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

March 15, 2021

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We have now lived through a year of COVID-19 closures, and so are looking back, struggling to keep getting through the *now*, and excitedly anticipating a future when we will be able to gather in groups, to meet in-person with each other and our students, to send our children to school, and to again hug our elderly relatives. So this edition of the Fortnightly is about those multiple time horizons, about keeping going through (what we hope is) the last phase of the pandemic, and about building that positive future together.

And at this dark anniversary, this edition is also about thanks to all those who have enabled our community to survive. Thank you to the University Health Services team who have given us COVID-19 tests these many, many months, and are now delivering vaccines. Thank you to the instructors—whether Senate faculty or not—who have done such extraordinary work to teach our students through these difficult times. Thank you to all the people who have stepped up and taken on second full-time jobs to manage the return to campus—if you see Seamus Wilmot or Andrew Kraus, for example, call out thanks from 6 feet away! And thank you to everyone who has been pushing through this “COVID wall” that so many of us felt throughout February, just feeling so tired of this long, dark slog. If you’re still reading the Fortnightly, you are hanging in there, and for that, we thank you.

Things are already getting better: There is some in-person teaching happening on campus, and any instructor who wants to can meet occasionally with up to 11 students at a time outside ([Register here](#)). Vaccines are becoming widely available and expectations are that supply will be adequate for all adults in the U.S. by the end of May. Many of our graduate students and colleagues have been vaccinated. We hope you will go as soon as you are able. It has been warm and sunny with magnolias flowering and plum trees blooming, a reminder of why so many of us chose to live here. Please, remind yourself of the joy you take in your teaching, in your research and in your extraordinary colleagues.

The future: Work is proceeding apace on a plan for a more or less normal Fall. We expect that most classes smaller than ~200 will be scheduled in person in their usual rooms. We expect faculty and students to be back in Berkeley, and the vibrant intellectual life of our campus to return. A CalMessage on this topic will be coming out in the next week or so.

Divisional Council Meetings

Your Divisional Council met on February 8th and 22nd. Discussions included items requiring the Division's approval and items where we tried to identify the range of faculty opinion about campus issues.

Master of Analytics in IEOR

Following a thoughtful review by Graduate Council with input from CAPRA and BIR, we approved and forwarded a new self-supporting graduate professional degree program (SSGPDP). Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs, or SSGPDPs, can serve important niches in the professional labor market, enabling graduates to get better jobs and contribute to the California economy.

System wide senate report on faculty salary scales

We commented on a [systemwide Senate report](#) calling for more uniformity across the 10-campus in application of the faculty salary scales. DIVCO and committees that reviewed the document felt the strategies outlined were unsuitable to Berkeley's circumstances, due in part to the significant role that BIR plays in setting salaries. DIVCO's comments, along with those from the other 9 divisional councils, were then forwarded to systemwide for discussion.

Innovative learning technologies initiative (ILTI)

ILTI, a system wide program designed to spur innovation in online and remote instruction was the [subject of a review](#). The review as completed prior to the pandemic making it somewhat outdated. Committees and DIVCO recommended that online and remote programs be led by the campuses and championed by faculty who are passionate about the programs. We recommended reduced emphasis on independent efforts led by UCOP, and a commitment to insuring that the funds allocated are used to support pedagogical priorities of colleges, schools, and campuses.

Fall semester and a phased return to normal

At both meetings we discussed the return to teaching in the fall. The probability of vaccine availability for every adult in the U.S. changed dramatically between two meetings and has continued to change since. Vaccine availability is key to our ability to reopen, and so DIVCO's ideas about reopening have been evolving with the vaccine forecasts. We discussed our values, and DIVCO strongly affirmed the value of in-person experience of our campus, both for scholarly and community reasons. This core value should guide policy for faculty, as we contemplate remote and in-person activities on our campus in the future.

Discussion of the future of division meetings

DIVCO discussed the format of future Division meetings. We noted the much higher attendance at the recent remote division meetings. Members were simultaneously excited about the opportunity for broader engagement and participation and concerned that the online medium suppresses vigorous debate. We discussed recordings of meetings and agreed to continue current policy that recordings are for the purposes of the minutes and deleted after the minutes are approved. During the intervening months, they will be available for faculty to listen to in the Senate offices.

Announcements

Congratulations to EVCP Alivisatos!

We'd been planning to write about EVCP Paul Alivisatos's recognition with a BBVA Frontier's of Knowledge award for his work developing nanomaterials for use in energy applications <https://www.bbva.com/en/alivisatos-and-gratzel-receive-the-frontiers-award-for-developing-new-nanomaterials-applied-in-renewable-energies/>. Soon after that news, at the end of February, it was announced that Alivisatos has accepted a position as [President of the University of Chicago](#).

Paul has been an extraordinary colleague and leader. He is widely recognized as a pioneer in the study of nanomaterials and their applications to devices (e.g. televisions) and to solar energy. As a leader on our campus most recently as VCR and EVCP and before that at LBNL, his vision for excellence of the Berkeley intellectual community in everything we do has been invaluable. Paul is creative, generous, and willing to learn. He will be deeply missed here. We wish him much success in his new post.

Budget

The campus budget continues to pose significant short and long-term challenges. Some of the worst possible outcomes have been alleviated by restoration of cuts in state support to 2018-19 levels, but our core problem remains: expenses continue to rise faster than revenues. Wages and salaries are by far the largest part of our expenses. A Senate-Administration group co-chaired by Rosemarie Rae and Jenna is trying to identify possible ways to significantly increase revenues, and if you have any ideas in that direction, please do email johnsonhanks@berkeley.edu. But for now, the problem seems close to intractable unless the state invests more and/or regular tuition increases are instituted.

Mills College

Discussions continue between Berkeley campus and Mills College leaders about a framework of an agreement for Berkeley to use the Mills campus as a location for growth in our teaching and research. The conversations within our campus about best uses of the Mills location, and between the campus and Mills are moving quickly. Rather than share information that might become quickly outdated, we've asked Chancellor to speak about her vision for the Mill's campus at the Spring Division meeting.

Senate matters

Senate Elections are currently open, and will close on March 19 at 5pm. Your Committee on Committees and Elected members to DIVCO serve and represent you—please vote!

<https://ucbsurveys.berkeley.edu/senatevote>

The Spring Division Meeting will take place by Zoom on April 29th from 3-5 pm. The Division meetings are a critical aspect of shared governance, where we meet as a whole faculty in service of the campus. Please put it in your calendar and plan to attend!

Fiat Lux,

Jennifer Johnson-Hanks
Chair of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
Professor of Demography and Sociology

Ron Cohen
Vice Chair of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
Professor of Chemistry and Earth and Planetary Sciences