

The Fortnightly

February 28, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We hope you are well and enjoying the spring weather. DIVCO met for the third time this semester on Monday, February 24. The meeting was primarily devoted to the academic program reviews of the Department of Comparative Literature and the Department of Rhetoric. Before discussing the DIVCO meeting in further detail, we wanted to share some updates from campus and the systemwide Academic Senate.

Campus Updates

In addition to attending meetings on the Task Force on Instructional Resilience, the Task Force on Hispanic Serving Institutions, and a Proposal for the Faculty Ombudsperson, Oliver is also participating in regular meetings that serve to inform the campus about the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation, developments with the UCSC wildcat strike, and UC's negotiations with the UC-AFT union. As detailed in an [article](#) in *The California Aggie*, the effects of the UCSC strike are starting to reverberate throughout the UC system. Partially in response to the escalating situation, on Monday, February 24, the campus released a statement of commitment to the welfare of our graduate students signed by Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education Lisa Garcia Bedolla, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Eugene Whitlock. The message was sent to the entire campus community and we hope you had a chance to read it.

On Wednesday of this week, Oliver attended the Academic Council at the UC Office of the President in Oakland. UC Provost Michael Brown was an invited guest at the meeting and the discussion centered on graduate student education and financial support. The vice chair of The Regents, [Cecilia Estolano](#), also attended Council and participated in a 90-minute question and answer session with members of Council. Regent Estolano is also a member of the Special Committee that is charged with the selection of the next UC President. You will be interested to read that the vote on a cohort tuition model is now scheduled to be held at the March 17-19 meeting of The Regents at UCLA.

Saturday, February 29, marks the start of a four-year capital campaign to raise funds for our campus. The campaign will continue until February 29, 2024 and will be one of the most ambitious campaigns undertaken by a university. The capital campaign offers an important opportunity for the campus to make its case to the broader community about the importance of our teaching and research for the state and beyond. If you are called upon to present your research, attend a conversation with donors, or speak to community leaders about the

university, please step up. Philanthropy can support graduate fellowships, faculty positions, undergraduate student aid, and new buildings: things we all need, and we can all contribute to making that possible.

Forthcoming Campus Events

A wide range of events are being held next week that might be of interest to you and your students:

Monday, March 2:

- [Women in Data Science \(WiDS\)](#) conference, 8:45am-4:30pm, Banatao Auditorium, Sutardja Dai Hall. Tickets are sold out but Keynote addresses from Stanford will be available by livestream: <https://www.widsconference.org/livestream.html>
- [107th Annual Martin Meyerson Berkeley Faculty Research Lectures](#). "Are We Under-Investing in Education," Prof. [David Card](#), Chevron Auditorium, I-House 4pm-5pm

Tuesday, March 3:

- [Campus Conversation with Janet Napolitano](#), noon at Sibley Auditorium, Bechtel Engineering Center. Cal ID required
- Voting!

Wednesday, March 4:

- [Art+Feminism+Race+Justice Wikipedia Edit-a-thon](#), 12-5 p.m., Moffitt Library, Room 405
- **Lecture by [Dr. Mary Louise Patterson](#)**, daughter of [Louise Patterson](#) (class of 1923): "Langston as We Knew Him." 650 Barrows Hall, 4pm
- [BFA/AFT/BSF Forum on *The Good University*](#) with Raka Ray, Erwin Chemerinsky and Khalid Kadir. 402 Barrows Hall from 6-8p.m.

Friday, March 6: [Women in Tech Symposium: Reimagining Cybersecurity for All](#), 9-6pm, Sibley Aud, tickets required.

Saturday, March 7: [Expanding Your Horizons](#), Valley Life Sciences Building, 8:30am-3:30pm.

DIVCO Meeting on Monday February 24

DIVCO held its tenth meeting of the academic year on Monday, February 24. Division Chair O'Reilly's announcements included:

1. A discussion of the efforts by the campus to coordinate its response to COVID-19. These efforts are being coordinated with the Office of the President;
2. Updates on the Academic Council's [statement](#) about the UCSC wildcat strike.
3. The letter from the Vice Provost for the Faculty Ben Hermalin to chairs of search committees. This letter was also distributed to department chairs, deans, and members of the Academic Council.

The meeting then proceeded with discussions of the reviews of the Department of Comparative Literature and the Department of Rhetoric. Reviews of every department are conducted every 10 years. The review is conducted by an external review committee. Following a campus visit, the committee prepares a report and the department is given an opportunity to respond. The reports are then given to the Academic Senate for commentary. As is standard procedure, commentary on the reviews from the chairs of Graduate Council (GC, John Battles), Committee on Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (BIR, Mary Ann Smart), Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA, Paul Fine), Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate (DECC, David Ahn), and the Undergraduate Council (UGC, Jonah Levy) were presented and discussed at DIVCO. The responses are then compiled and sent to the Vice Provost for Academic Planning Lisa Alvarez-Cohen. We would like to take this opportunity to again thank the chairs of the Senate committees listed above and the Senate liaisons, Colleen Lye and Ramona Naddaff, for their dedication and hard work in producing detailed and thoughtful reports on these remarkable departments. A common concern in both reviews was the issue of adequate financial support for graduate students. DIVCO is well aware of this issue and looks forward to working with the campus to address it.

Thank you for your continued interest in our Senate and our campus.

Sincerely,

Oliver O'Reilly
Chair of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
Professor of Mechanical Engineering

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