

The Fortnightly

May 15, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We hope this 29th issue of the biweekly digest of news from the Divisional Council of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate (DIVCO) finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

Our congratulations and appreciation to you for completing an academic year like none other. You have been part of a once-in-a-lifetime effort by the campus community to help our students and preserve our instructional, research, and service missions. We have come to know and appreciate the [remarkable women who built this campus](#) and have been inspired by the students who recreated our campus on Minecraft in a few short weeks. Tomorrow's live-streamed [Blockeley graduation ceremony](#) is definitely going to be something few of us could have imagined at the start of this semester.

In this issue, we are refraining from summarizing the proceedings of the three DIVCO meetings that have taken place since our last issue. Rather, we are going to present an outline of developments this past month and the plans for the summer. We refer the interested reader to the minutes of the three DIVCO meetings that can be found [online](#).

Meetings of the Divisional and Academic Councils

The Senate has been exceptionally busy in recent months. Since we last wrote to you on April 17, the Systemwide Academic Assembly Meeting was held on April 18, DIVCO met on April 27, May 6, and May 11; the Spring Division Meeting was held on April 30; and the Academic Council for the Systemwide Senate (AC) met on April 29, May 5, May 12, and May 15. The large number of meetings for DIVCO and AC are in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Indeed by next week, DIVCO will have met 20 times this academic year (and 13 times during the Spring semester).

The systemwide meetings have included presentations by UC President Janet Napolitano and UC Provost Michael Brown, discussions of Senate input on policies,

including the [Presidential Policy on Gender Recognition and Lived Name](#), and reports, including the [Report of the Senate's Standardized Testing Task Force](#) and President Napolitano's [recommendation to the UC Regents on standardized testing](#). Additional meetings have been scheduled throughout this summer to help coordinate responses to the COVID-19 crisis. In particular, these invaluable meetings have focused on sharing information and best practices with divisional chairs from the other 9 campuses. Each campus has faced unique challenges. The Merced, Berkeley, and San Francisco campuses share the semester system while Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and San Diego are on the quarter system. Campuses with medical centers have been uniquely challenged but are now using these centers to develop testing, contact tracing, and isolation strategies so they can recover operations. The most well-known example is San Diego's [Return to Learn](#) program. The administration on our campus is actively discussing these strategies with the [Innovative Genomics Institute](#) and faculty from the [School of Public Health](#). On May 6, University Health Services opened up RT-PCR testing to track the live COVID-19 virus to faculty.

Faculty Governance Consortium

The Berkeley Division is also participating in a Faculty Governance Consortium. This consortium includes faculty representation from the Ivies, the University of Texas-Austin, Michigan State University, University of Chicago, New York University, Carnegie Mellon University, California Institute of Technology, Stanford University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In response to the COVID pandemic, the consortium will be meeting every two weeks throughout the summer to share best practices and information as campuses prepare for the Fall. Berkeley will be chairing the next meeting of this group on Friday, May 15. Division Vice Chair Jennifer (Jenna) Johnson-Hanks will also be participating as we start to prepare for the transition of Senate leadership in late August.

The Chancellor's Committees

On May 6, Chancellor Carol Christ and the EVCP Paul Alivisatos announced the formation of a [set of 9 committees](#) to prepare plans for resumption of operations in the fall. The Chancellor intends to make a decision in June on the plans for the fall semester. Oliver is co-chairing an Instructional Policy Task Force with Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education Cathy Koshland and is serving on the Instruction and the Public Health and Testing advisory committees. The chairs of the committees on Courses of Instruction (COCI) and Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (BIR), Graduate Council (GC), and Undergraduate Council (UGC) are serving on the Instructional Policy Task Force and the chair of the Committee on Research (COR) is serving on the Research Committee. Jenna is a member of the Finance Planning Committee. The Chancellor has also convened a Response Management Team (RMT) that includes members of her Cabinet. Oliver serves on the RMT. This committee meets once a week to review the progress and answer any queries from the 9 committees.

The RMT is also updated by the Chancellor and EVCP on developments from the Office of the President in Oakland.

Summer Activities of the Berkeley Division

In anticipation of unfolding developments, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA), COCI, UGC, and GC are all prepared to meet this summer. We anticipate that COCI will need to review the recommendations from the Instruction Committee mentioned above particularly as they pertain to modalities of instruction for the fall semester. In addition, CAPRA has reserved time to meet with the Vice Chancellor of Finance, Rosemarie Rae, during the summer. These meetings have an added importance, given the [May revise of the Governor's budget](#) that was just released. Meetings have also been scheduled for DIVCO on every second Wednesday from 5:00pm-6:00pm throughout the summer. In addition, Jenna and Oliver will continue to hold regular meetings with the Chancellor and EVCP through late August. We will also have meetings with the incoming Division vice chair Ronald Cohen.

Closing Remarks

This has been a semester of extraordinary activity by the Berkeley Division. Both the number and intensity of the meetings has been unprecedented in recent memory. We are immensely grateful to faculty serving on systemwide committees, DIVCO, and the other 27 standing Senate committees for their exceptional work and dedication during an immensely challenging semester.

It's been a pleasure and a privilege to serve the Senate this year. Sadly this will be our last joint issue of this news digest. Jenna and Ron will be partnering in the fall to write new issues and keep our community informed.

In closing, we congratulate UC Berkeley's class of 2020, and we thank you for your role in helping the campus complete this academic year and your continued interest and engagement in our Senate and our campus.

Fiat Lux and Go Bears!
Oliver and Jenna

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