

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
BERKELEY DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019

A special meeting of the Berkeley Division was called to order at 2:10 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, in Sibley Auditorium, Bechtel Engineering Center, pursuant to call. Professor Barbara Spackman, chair of the Berkeley Division, presided. A full house ensured that the quorum of 50 Senate members was met.

I. Business

To consider a resolution signed by 60 members of the Division, regarding a development planned for the corner of Hearst Avenue and Gayley Road.

MAIN MOTION:

Whereas the campus leadership has failed to address the concerns of faculty on the ethical appropriateness and financial viability of using precious campus space to privately develop a housing project on the Upper Hearst site to partially subsidize the cost of developing additional space for the School of Public Policy; and

Whereas the campus leadership has failed to provide a realistic plan to mitigate the loss of parking space due to the proposed demolition of the Upper Hearst lot; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate asks the campus leadership to:

- 1. immediately suspend the Upper Hearst project;*
- 2. provide to the faculty a full financial analysis of the current version of the project, including projections for the cost and occupancy scope of the housing part of the project;*
- 3. work collaboratively with the faculty and staff of the north-east side of the Berkeley campus to explore alternative options to address the space needs of the School of Public Policy without unduly and irreparably burdening the neighboring academic units.*

Chair Spackman reviewed meeting management procedures. Two presenters—one in favor of the resolution and one opposed--were allowed three minutes for their remarks.

Presentation of the resolution

Division Chair Spackman recognized Professor Eli Yablonovitch (Electrical Engineering & Computer Science), representing the signatories, to present the resolution. (A member of the audience introduced a procedural motion from the floor but was ruled out of order.)

Professor Yablonovitch indicated the signatories' support for the Goldman School of Public Policy's (GSPP) desired expansion, but asked that another location be found; the

College of Engineering has offered to assist. The resolution was proposed for three primary reasons:

- The financial model creates too great a risk of increasing campus debt. (Faculty received the financial information on the project the day before this meeting, so only a quick analysis could be completed and was distributed as a handout.)
- The project is not an optimal use of prime central campus space.
- The significant loss of parking will significantly disadvantage staff who can least afford other alternatives.

He also stated that a lack of transparency and a lack of consultation with expert campus faculty have marred the planning process. Revisiting the plans would provide an opportunity to address these issues.

PROCEDURAL MOTION: It was moved (and seconded) that the body be allowed to vote on the motion, including any potential amendments or substitutions, before 3:00 PM.

There was no discussion.

MOTION: It was moved (and seconded) to approve the procedural motion.

Vote: The procedural motion was approved by a show of hands.

Argument against the resolution:

Chancellor Carol Christ urged faculty to allow the project to proceed, emphasizing the need to aggressively address the housing shortage that is affecting both students and faculty, and the fact that a number of other capital projects depend on this moving forward. She noted the administration has taken steps to respond to criticisms, and has brought the Institute of Transportation Studies in to develop recommendations on a long-term parking strategy. She noted several benefits to the campus, including GSPP's urgent need for space.

Discussion:

Division Chair Spackman opened the floor for discussion, with a two-minute per person limit on audience questions.

Highlights of the discussion included the following:

- Professor Henry Brady, dean of the Goldman School of Public Policy (GSPP), emphasized the national stature of the school and its urgent need for additional space to carry out its mission. He noted that this location had been chosen after considering many alternatives, and that the City of Berkeley supported the project.
- Transparency in planning and better financial planning for this project are needed.
- Several commenters spoke in support of small professional programs or reiterated the need for new housing. The housing crisis is affecting faculty recruitment and retention, which could threaten the future of Berkeley.
- The project addresses many campus needs and is well designed.
- The project will use some central campus funding which may not be replaced.

Others pointed out the need for a comprehensive, updated analysis of growth and traffic at this critical time. A potential lawsuit from the City of Berkeley over campus growth was mentioned.

A call for the question was moved (and seconded):

MOTION: To close debate.

Vote: The motion passed by a two-thirds majority.

Yes: 211

No: 62

MOTION: To approve the Main Motion.

Vote: The Main Motion passed by a two-thirds majority.

Yes: 174

No: 69

The resolution was approved to send to the UC president.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 P.M.

David Milnes
Secretary, Berkeley Division

Handout A: Comments on the Upper Hearst (GSPP) development, April 30, 2019 (by Professor Sanjay Govindjee, Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Professors Richard Stanton and Nancy Wallace of the Haas School of Business)