

The Fortnightly

February 13, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We hope your spring semester is off to a good start. DIVCO met for the second time this semester on Monday, February 10. Before summarizing that meeting, we wanted to share news about developments on campus, the UC Regents, and the Systemwide Academic Senate.

Task Forces on Instructional Resilience and Hispanic Serving Institution

The Hispanic Serving Institution Task Force has been charged by the Chancellor with examining key issues and challenges to the Berkeley campus's goal of becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). The task force is being co-chaired by the vice chancellor for diversity, equity, and inclusion, Oscar Dubón, and Professor Kris Gutierrez, with representation from staff, administration, Senate faculty, and students. The task force is coordinating with several working groups, including one on eligibility and another on strategic investments. The task force will deliver a set of recommendations to the Chancellor by the end of the semester.

The Task Force on Instructional Resilience has also been formed in response to the power outages last semester and the air quality issues in the fall of 2018. The task force has faculty members from across campus and is co-chaired by Cathy Koshland and Oliver O'Reilly. The EVCP has charged the task force to present a set of interim recommendations by March 20 and a final report by May. The task force has been meeting with various campus stakeholders, including students and instructors, as it works on establishing a set of guidelines and recommendations to help students and instructors prepare for possible disruptions to lectures, labs, discussions and exams in the fall semester of 2020. The task force is also examining best practices from other institutions.

Presidential Search

The search for the new UC President is now well underway. In contrast to earlier searches, The Regents are holding town halls and forums at each of the campuses. Unfortunately, the forum that was held in Berkeley two weeks ago was very poorly attended by the campus community. We are taking pains to emphasize to the Office of the President that the poor attendance should be attributed to poor communications from The Regents about the event and the format for questions and participation, and not to lack of interest in the search. The poor attendance, however, led to an opportunity to discuss faculty concerns in conversations with the Chair of The Regents, John Pérez, and the Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, Gareth Elliot. We encourage you to consult:

<https://presidentalsearch.universityofcalifornia.edu/index.html>

for additional developments and thank the Berkeley Faculty Association for holding a [Conversation](#) with John Pérez and Carol Christ last week, in an event that raised important issues and sparked valuable conversations. We also thank the faculty who attended the forum.

Celebration of 150 Years of Women at Berkeley (150W)

Saturday, October 3, 2020, marks the sesquicentennial of a memorial resolution by the Regents “that young ladies be admitted into the University on equal terms in all respects with young men.” The theme for the upcoming Cal Day will be 150W and the hats and t-shirts for campus volunteers will feature one of the 150W logos. All admissions letters in March will discuss the 150W. A campus-wide history project is being led by Cathy Gallagher (English) and Sheila Humphreys (EECS). Thanks in no small part to Sheila Humphreys’ dedication and encouragement, to date several Colleges and Departments have recently produced some wonderful histories:

<https://gse.berkeley.edu/150-years-women-berkeley-and-gse>

<https://eecs.berkeley.edu/about/history/first-women>

Professor Gallagher has just published the first pair of a series of works on watershed moments in the history of women at UC Berkeley

<https://150w.berkeley.edu/1870-resolution-regents>

<https://150w.berkeley.edu/struggling-light>

We hope you enjoy reading these lucid histories and thank Cathy Gallagher for her marvellous work. Further histories and details can be found at

<https://150w.berkeley.edu/>

There is also a dedicated twitter feed, Facebook page, and instagram posts at [@womenatcal150](#). We would also like to encourage your department, school, or college, to use the hashtag

[#BerkeleyWomen150](#)

to tag events, announcements in 2020 that are related to the celebration.

Visit to the Campus by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Systemwide Senate

On Monday, February 10, the chair, Kum-Kum Bhavnani, and vice chair, Mary Gauvain, of the systemwide Academic Senate visited our campus. A meeting was held with the current chair, and former chairs of the Committee on Committees (COMS) to discuss increasing faculty engagement in the Academic Senate. Following DIVCO’s meeting, the systemwide chair and vice chair also met with members of the Senate’s Committee on Privilege and Tenure (P&T) to discuss the challenges encountered, and additional resources needed, by the committee in dealing with the strict timelines required by the [Senate’s Bylaw 336](#).

DIVCO Meeting on Monday February 10

DIVCO held its ninth meeting of the academic year on Monday, February 10. Chair O’Reilly’s announcements included:

1. A discussion of the efforts by the campus to coordinate its response to the coronavirus. These efforts are being coordinated with the Office of the President;

2. Updates on the work of the Instructional Resilience Task Force; and
3. Discussions with faculty members concerned about the use of DEI statements in faculty searches.

The meeting then proceeded with a continuation of an update from Jonah Levy, the chair of Undergraduate Council (UGC), on their work this year. At the previous meeting, we learned that their foci for this year include disability accommodation, improving other student-facing services, and evaluating the use of undergraduate student instructors. At this meeting, Chair Levy took questions, particularly related to undergraduate teaching.

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair of the Systemwide Senate, was then invited to address DIVCO. She outlined the very long list of issues currently occupying the Systemwide Senate, including questions around the university budget, systemwide policy, and national issues that may affect the university. One noteworthy issue is the fact that the Supreme Court will be releasing a ruling about DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) sometime later this spring, and the university is preparing plans for alternative possible outcomes. We are committed to ensuring that our undocumented students can complete their degrees, regardless of what the Supreme Court decides. The other specific issues raised by Chair Bhavnani are discussed elsewhere in this report.

APM 240 & APM 260

DIVCO briefly discussed proposed modifications to two parts of the Academic Personnel Manual that refer to deans and other academic administrators. These changes specify that an individual's administrative salary must exceed her or his faculty salary, and that both compensated and uncompensated outside work count toward the 48-day annual limit. The specific text is available at:

https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/underreview/apm-240-and-246-revisions.pdf

Working Group on Comprehensive Access (WGCA) Chair's Report of Findings and Recommendations

This report on the work of a group examining how the University of California affiliates and engages with health-care organizations, such as Dignity Health, that have policy-based restrictions on care, such as abortion or gender-affirming surgery. Consensus was not achieved, and the working group split on its recommendations; the Chair presented his report to the Senate rather than a report from the group. The report along with a large number of comments can be found online:

https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/underreview/wgca-chair-report-and-responses.pdf

Presently, all of the divisions of the Senate are being asked to comment on the report, and members of the community are also invited to submit their comments to the Office of the

President. President Napolitano will submit her report to The Regents before she steps down on July 31, 2020. Most of the members of DIVCO supported a prohibition on affiliations between UC health centers and organizations that do not offer comprehensive health care access, while recognizing that the issue is complex.

UC Washington Center (UCDC)

The University of California has had a center in Washington, D.C. since 2001. The UC Washington Center (UCDC) is located in an 11-story building located at 1608 Rhode Island Ave, in Washington, D.C. The top eight stories of this building are residence units with a capacity of 276 residents. The other floors hold academic facilities and staff rooms. As part of an ongoing review of all UC systemwide programs, a 160-page report on UCDC's current status and possible future forms was completed in November 2019 and can be found online:

https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/underreview/uc-washington-center-senate-review.pdf

DIVCO discussed this report, relying on comments on the proposal presented by the chairs of Graduate Council, Committee on Research, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation, Committee on Courses of Instruction, Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate, and the Undergraduate Council.

Proposed Self-Supporting Graduate Degree Program (SSGPDP) Master's Degree in Development Engineering

The proposed SSGPDP Master's Degree in Development Engineering is unusual because it is being proposed by the [Blum Center for Developing Economies](#), to be overseen by a Graduate Group. The proposal for the degree was accompanied by an unusually large number of letters of support from across campus. This marked the second time that the proposal was discussed at DIVCO. Previously, Graduate Council (GC) raised concerns about the proposal. These concerns were addressed in the revision and DIVCO supported the proposal for the master's degree.

Standardized Testing Task Force Report

A task force on the use of standardized testing (STTF) has submitted its highly anticipated report for systemwide review:

https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/underreview/sttf-report.pdf

This substantial report, composed by an 18-member systemwide task force, is currently being reviewed by the Berkeley Division's Committee on Admissions, Enrollment, and Preparatory Education (AEPE). The task force presented six recommendations. DIVCO anticipates discussing the six recommendations at one of its meetings in early March. We encourage you to read the executive summary of the report and, if you have the opportunity, the overview of history of admissions policies for the University of California.

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