



The Fortnightly

November 7, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Late fall at Berkeley often brings challenges, which this year have come in the form of power outages. Warmest thanks to the staff—from the High Voltage Team in Facilities to conscientious staff in the academic departments to research scientists and beyond—who got us through two PG&E power shut-offs with no injuries and limited harm to research. Thanks also to the Committee on Courses of Instruction, chaired by Professor Robert Ashmore, for working through weekends and late into evenings to develop guidelines for instructors responding to lost instruction days, and to the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Academic Innovation Studio for moving quickly to provide instructors with resources to make their courses more resilient to these kinds of challenges in the future. Berkeley is great because our people are great, and that greatness was clearly on display as you all rose to meet the challenges of the past few weeks.

DIVCO held its 5th meeting of the semester on Monday, November 4th. Chair O'Reilly's announcements included:

- 1) A reminder about the open forum on the UC President search, which will be held Wednesday November 13, from 6 to 8 pm in 402 Barrows. All are encouraged to attend!
- 2) The search for a new Vice Chancellor for Finance/campus CFO has begun in earnest. Thoughts and feedback can be directed to Chair O'Reilly or Vice Chair Jennifer Johnson-Hanks to convey to the search committee.
- 3) Note that campus's Title IX Officer is retiring. More information is not yet available.

DIVCO approved final versions of two documents that we had been working on: a statement in support of Unit 18 lecturers and recommended principles for decision-making regarding capital projects. Both documents are available at:

<https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/issues/recent-issues/senate-statements-current-issues>

DIVCO also discussed a proposal coming from UCOP for a revision to the Presidential Policy on Copyright Ownership. Information about this issue is available at:

<https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/underreview/presidential-policy-copyright-ownership-review-2019.pdf>

The second half of the meeting was devoted to a conversation with representatives of University Development and Alumni Relations (UDAR) regarding the upcoming capital campaign. One of Chair O'Reilly's priorities this year is to increase information flow and improve communications between the Academic Senate and campus support units including UDAR. This meeting was a step in that direction.

The fall meeting of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate was held the same day as the DIVCO meeting. In addition to comments from the Chancellor and the ASUC Vice President, we heard from Ella Callow, the ADA/Section 504 Compliance Officer, and from a panel regarding Capital Projects. Slides from both presentations are available on the Senate website at:

<https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/meetings/division-meetings/fall-2019>

Callow noted Berkeley's historic role as a leader in disability rights and disability activism, and shared steps her office is taking to support campus in sustaining that important leadership. The capital projects panel included Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Paul Alivisatos, Vice Chancellor of Finance Rosemarie Rae, Vice Chancellor for Administration Marc Fisher, Vice Provost for Academic Planning Lisa Alvarez-Cohen, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Capital Strategies Wendy Hillis, and Associate Director for Capital Strategies John Arvin. They spoke about three interlocking issues. First, we are currently in the midst of a two-year process of renewing our Long-Range Development Plan and Campus Master Plan. Eventually, these documents will guide our decision-making about capital investments on campus. Second, a confluence of challenges and opportunities makes it such that we must make some capital decisions before the LRDP and CMP are completed. In particular, we must build a replacement for Evans Hall as soon as possible. Third, Vice Provost Alvarez-Cohen and Vice Chancellor Rae have worked extensively to develop a new, more robust process for evaluating capital projects, which should contribute to better decision-making.

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