



320 STEPHENS HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The Fortnightly

April 16, 2019

Welcome to the thirteenth issue of a fortnightly digest of news from the Division Council (DIVCO) of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate. The intent of the digest is to summarize issues being discussed at DIVCO, provide updates on recent deliberations and policies, and highlight engagement by the Senate with members of the administration and student groups.

The year 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the approval by The Regents of a resolution to admit women to the University of California. Presently, a joint Administration-Senate task force has been convened and members are soliciting ideas from the university-wide community for events and ideas to mark 2020 as the Year Celebrating Cal Women. Please feel free to send your ideas to oreilly@berkeley.edu

A reminder that the Division is actively seeking nominations for faculty to serve on committees. If you are interested, then please fill out the forms that can be found at

<https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/volunteer-service>

The [Distinguished Teaching Awards Ceremony](#) will be held on Wednesday, April 24 from 5:00pm-6:30pm in Sibley Auditorium. The second of the [106th Annual Martin Meyerson Berkeley Faculty Research Lectures](#) will be presented by Professor Jill Banfield on Tuesday, April 30 from 4pm-5pm in Sibley Auditorium. This lecture is open to the public. The [Spring Divisional Meeting](#) will be held on Wednesday, May 1 from 3pm-5pm in Sibley Auditorium.

DIVCO meets every two weeks during the semester. A schedule of these meetings, along with approved minutes, can be found online at

<https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/committees/divco>

Issues under review by the Berkeley division and the systemwide senate can be found online at

<https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/issues/issues-under-review>
<https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/under-review/index.html>

The thirteenth meeting of DIVCO was held on Monday, April 15. This was the fifth meeting of DIVCO this semester. Items on the agenda included

1. Discussion of the Master of Information and Data Science (MIDS) four-year review;
2. Discussion of the [ASUC proposal to make Election Day a non-instructional day](#);
3. Discussion of the [ASUC request for greater student representation in Academic Senate committees](#);
4. Discussion of a proposal for WiFi improvement funding.

The discussion of the review of the MIDS program was led by the chair of Graduate Council, John Battles. This program was one of the first self-supported graduate professional degree programs on campus. The School of Information partnered with an outside firm, [2U.com](#), to develop the platform to deliver online content and to advertise the program. By several measures, the program has been academically successful, as well as generating revenue for the School of Information. Additional comments by the chair of the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation, Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, were also presented.

The ASUC presented a proposal to the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate to make Election Day a non-instructional day. The aim of the proposal is to increase student participation in national elections. To accommodate the academic calendar, the semester would commence on a Tuesday instead of its customary Wednesday start. While Graduate Council took no position on the proposal, Undergraduate Council raised several concerns. In particular, they believed that other measures might be more effective and less disruptive to the campus calendar. In conclusion, while DIVCO supports initiatives to encourage students to participate in elections, DIVCO was not in favor of making Election Day a non-instructional day.

A second proposal by ASUC was also discussed at DIVCO. This proposal requested increased representation on a wide range of standing committees and sharing of agendas for these committees. The committees of interest included Undergraduate Council, Graduate Council, the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate, Admissions Enrollment and Preparatory Education, and the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation. While Graduate Council is currently in the process of adding another student member, the other committees were opposed to adding members. All of the committees agree that there are steps that can be taken to enhance participation of the ASUC representatives. As regards agendas, the agenda packets often contain confidential information and distributing them widely is not possible.

The last item for discussion at DIVCO was a proposal to improve WiFi on campus. There was widespread support for this proposal from DIVCO.

Thanking you for your engagement and hoping your semester is going well.

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