



The Fortnightly

April 3, 2019

Welcome to the twelfth 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 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, Bechtel Engineering Center. This lecture is open to the public. The [Distinguished Teaching Awards Ceremony](#) will be held on Wednesday, April 24 from 5:00pm-6:30pm in Sibley Auditorium. The Spring Division 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 twelfth meeting of DIVCO was held on Monday, April 1. This was the fourth meeting of DIVCO this semester. Items on the agenda included

1. Discussion of the Campus's faculty FTE allocation process (FTE floors);
2. Discussion of the final report from the Faculty Housing Strategy Working Group;
3. Discussion of the Upper Hearst/Goldman School of Public Policy project;
4. Discussion of the Memorial to the Regents concerning fossil fuels;
5. Discussion of the Undergraduate Council's recommendation to raise the Phase 2 enrollment limit on credit hours.

Vice Provost for the Faculty (VPF) Ben Hermalin was invited to DIVCO to discuss the FTE allocation process and the setting of state-funded FTE floors for departments. As emphasized by the VPF, the need for floors is two-fold: to serve as a guarantee to departments and to reassure departments in an era when the University is seeking to expand its faculty. Setting of the floors is still an ongoing process and will be based on some combination of a weighted sum of historical FTE, workload based on student credit hours, and an additive factor that is at the discretion of the Budget and Interdepartmental Relations Committee.

A co-chair of the Committee on Faculty Welfare (FWEL), Terrence Hendershott, led the discussion on the report of the Faculty Housing Strategy Working Group. This report was commissioned by Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost Paul Alivisatos to assess the situation facing faculty seeking housing in the Bay Area and to provide recommendations on how the University might address this situation:

https://chancellor.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/faculty_housing_strategy_working_group_charge_letter.pdf

The strategies recommended by the working group include the campus investing in more rental properties for faculty, exploration of more cost-effective means of subsidizing housing including shared-equity programs, renovation of buildings at the Clark Kerr campus, and reintroduction of the graduated MOP loan program. The nine members of the working group included representatives from the faculty and the administration. The proposed solutions were endorsed by FWEL. In addition, FWEL recommended a modified lottery system for units at University Terrace.

The discussion on the Upper Hearst Project was prompted by a letter to the administration and Senate from faculty in the College of Engineering. Their letter, dated March 19, 2019, outlines a series of concerns about the demolition of a parking garage with 390 spaces and its subsequent replacement by two buildings: an academic building for the Goldman School of Public Policy and a building containing 150 housing units and 170 parking spaces (90 of which will be reserved for the occupants of the housing units):

<https://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu/goldman-school-upper-hearst-project>

The Provost has responded to some of these concerns in writing and a College of Engineering-wide meeting will be held on April 4. The project is scheduled for approval at the Regents meeting on May 14, 2019. Concerns were raised in DIVCO about the approval process for capital projects and the lack of Senate consultation. Additionally, concerns were raised about affordable pricing of the housing units.

The UCSF Division of the Academic Senate has sponsored a Memorial to the Regents to “divest the University’s endowment portfolio of all investments in the 200 publicly traded fossil fuel companies with the largest carbon reserves.” To initiate additional discussion of this proposal by the Academic Senate, three divisions must approve. The Berkeley Division approved this memorial and will wait to hear from the systemwide Senate if further discussion of the memorial will take place.

The last item for discussion at DIVCO was a proposal from the Undergraduate Council to extend the number of units a student could enroll in during Phase II from four units to five units. The increase would enable students to enroll in language courses that are five units during Phase II. Discussion of this matter was led by the chair of the Undergraduate Council, Jonah Levy. After some discussion and input from the Committee on Courses of Instruction, it was decided to consult with the Registrar to see if a special provision for language courses only could be implemented during Phase II enrollment.

Thanking you for your engagement and hoping you had an enjoyable and relaxing spring break.

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