



320 STEPHENS HALL  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

## ***The Fortnightly***

December 18, 2018

Welcome to the eighth 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.

A reminder that the Division is seeking nominations for the Spring 2019 election of members to DIVCO, and to the Committee on Committees (COMS), which appoints faculty members to Academic Senate committees. Before the February 15, 2019 deadline, nominating petitions can be filled out online at

<https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/elections>

If you wish to serve on other committees, please fill out the forms that can be found at

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

The 2018 Clark Kerr Award for distinguished contributions to higher education was presented to President Emeritus [Richard C. Atkinson](#) and Provost Emeritus [C. Judson King](#) at a ceremony on December 5 at the Bancroft Hotel. The recipients of this award were selected by the Committee on Faculty Awards. This year, the committee was chaired by Professor Anthony Long.



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>

The eighth meeting of DIVCO was held on Monday, December 17. This is the last meeting of DIVCO this semester. Items on the agenda included a discussion of a proposed Hong Kong University dual degree program, a discussion of student mental health issues, and an update on intercollegiate athletics from the Athletic Director Jim Knowlton.

The discussion on the proposed dual degree program with Hong Kong University commenced with comments from the Undergraduate Council's review of the proposed program. Further discussion of the merits and challenges of the program were contributed by members of DIVCO and a response formulated for the Associate Vice Chancellor Russo.

The co-chairs of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Student Mental Health, Fiona Doyle and David Presti, were invited to the meeting to discuss the major findings of the UC Graduate Student Well-Being Survey. The co-chairs brought our attention to two valuable online resources for faculty seeking to help with mental health issues in their classrooms and research groups:

<https://recalibrate.berkeley.edu/one-click-mode/one-click-resources-faculty>

### [Promoting Student Mental Health](#)

Chapter 7, which starts on page 139, of the Promoting Student Mental Health has lots of helpful advice about constructing syllabi and managing exam and assignments for reducing stress in students. I also found the staff and faculty testimonials at the end of the book to be very moving and motivational. For instance, from now on, when asking students to submit assignments I will also ask them to self-report the amount of time they spent completing the work.

Cal's Athletic Director Jim Knowlton was invited to DIVCO to discuss his priorities for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. This was Director Knowlton's first meeting with DIVCO since he was hired in June 2018. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate had met with him earlier in the semester and had extended an invitation to him to DIVCO. Director Knowlton outlined his progress during the past six months, the ongoing progress in the academic performance of student-athletes, his aspirations for the student-athletes, and the process of moving Cal from [Title IX](#) Prong 3 to Title IX Prong 1. Following these remarks, Director Knowlton fielded questions from members of DIVCO.

Thanking you for your engagement and wishing you a happy holiday season.

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