



The Fortnightly

February 12, 2019

Welcome to the ninth 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 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>

As UCPATH will be going live at the end of March, faculty are being advised to go to

<https://atyourserviceonline.ucop.edu>

and print out their earnings statements for January and February for comparison purposes with their April 1 earnings statement that will be generated by UCPATH. Faculty are also advised to verify their personal information on

<https://blu.is.berkeley.edu>

is correct before February 28, 2019.

The [106th Annual Martin Meyerson Faculty Research Lectures](#) will be presented by Professor Alison Gopnik Tuesday March 19 and Professor Jill Banfield on Tuesday April 30. These lectures are open to the public and will be held from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM in the Chevron Auditorium and Sibley Auditorium, respectively. Graduate Division announced their series of lectures for the Spring Semester. Details on the lectures, which include the Jefferson Memorial Lecture by former faculty member and Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court Goodwin Liu, and the Tanner Series of lectures can be found at

<https://grad.berkeley.edu/news/headlines/spring-lectures-5/>

The Academic Innovation Studio has also announced their program for the Spring Semester:

[AIS-Programs-Spring-2019](#)

These programs include workshops on accessible course content.

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 ninth meeting of DIVCO was held on Monday, February 11. This was the first meeting of DIVCO this semester. Items on the agenda included a discussion of new proposed policies for the evaluation of teaching and a discussion of a letter from the ten chancellors concerning academic freedom.

The [recently appointed](#) Assistant Vice Chancellor (AVC) and Director for Undergraduate Admissions Olufemi “Femi” Ogundele was a guest at DIVCO, and led an engaging 30-minute discussion of his priorities and perspectives. The AVC started his position six weeks ago. His immediate goals pertain to the Class of 2023 and include addressing issues of diversity in the yield events, presenting a clear narrative about the campus to admitted students, and highlighting existing student support structures. He has prioritized codifying all the student support systems and bridge programs on campus and has started to actively engage with the California Alumni Association. His long-term goals include developing UC Berkeley into a national leader in the development of K-12 pipelines, improving UC Berkeley’s digital presence, reaching out to local communities, and promoting the Chancellor’s diversity initiatives.

DIVCO also discussed proposed revisions to the policy on teaching evaluation. These revisions were promoted in part by Philip Stark and Richard Freishtat’s [research](#) on the merits of the existing evaluations in assessing learning outcomes and teaching effectiveness. The Committee on Teaching had proposed a teaching dossier several years ago, and a new set of questions were proposed by the Committee on Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (Budget Committee) last year, and circulated to other Senate committees for feedback and commentary. Following this process, Vice Provost for the Faculty Ben Hermalin formulated an official revised policy. While there was consensus that the revised policy is an improvement on the current policy (which dates to 2006), DIVCO members raised concerns about increased workload both for staff compiling and entering data into APBears and for department chairs conducting peer reviews of teaching.

The third item on the agenda was a discussion of the Senate’s response to a [letter](#) signed by the 10 Chancellors “reaffirming their standing opposition to an academic boycott of Israeli academic institutions and/or individual scholars.” Comments were solicited from the committees on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom. DIVCO decide to request further clarification from the Chancellor. However, following the meeting, the weekly newsletter from the Berkeley Faculty Association (BFA) posted a [letter](#) to the BFA from the Chancellor that contained such a clarification.

Thanking you for your engagement and wishing you a successful spring semester.

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