



The Fortnightly

February 28, 2019

Welcome to the tenth 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 is being convened that will solicit ideas from the university-wide community for events and ideas to mark 2020 as the Year of the Women of California during the month of March.

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 [106th Annual Meyerson Faculty Research Lectures](#) will be presented by Professor Alison Gopnik on Tuesday, March 19, and Professor Jill Banfield on Tuesday, April 30. These lectures are open to the public and will be held from 4pm-5pm in the Chevron Auditorium and Sibley Auditorium, respectively. The Big Give will be taking place on Pi-day (Thursday, March 14, 2019). Additional details on this event can be found at

<https://biggive.berkeley.edu/>

This year, the Senate is actively participating in this event.

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 tenth meeting of DIVCO was held on Monday, February 25. This was the second meeting of DIVCO this semester. Items on the agenda included

1. Discussions on the Review of the Department of Mathematics;
2. [Proposed revisions of the Academic Senate Bylaw 336: Privilege and Tenure: Divisional Committees -- Disciplinary Cases](#)

3. [Proposed revisions to investigation and adjudication frameworks for Senate and non-Senate faculty under the UC President's Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment \(SVSH\) policy](#); and
4. [A proposal on open access for dissertations and theses](#).

Discussion of the report from the External Review Committee for the Department of Mathematics was led by the chairs of several Senate committees including Undergraduate Council, Graduate Council, the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate, the Committee on Budget and Interdepartmental Relations, and the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation.

The chair of the Committee on Privilege and Tenure (P&T), Marianne Constable, led the discussion on the proposed changes to the Senate Bylaw 366 and the Investigation and Adjudication Frameworks for SVSH cases. These revisions are designed to speed up the timeline for Privilege and Tenure Committee hearings regarding disciplinary charges in SVSH cases. P&T disciplinary hearings are formal proceedings in which the administration brings charges against a Senate faculty member, and the P&T panel (consisting of at least three Senate members) serves as neutral adjudicators. All parties, including P&T, are represented by counsel, and typically all parties attend the entire three to four day proceeding. The revisions are being considered in response to the UC President's and UC Regents' acceptance of the State Auditors recommendations. It is the Senate's responsibility to approve any changes to the Senate's Bylaws. While there was broad agreement that an expedited process is valuable, concerns were raised that the State Auditor's recommendations were tailored to a business' calendar year and not an academic calendar. Concern was also raised that the accelerated timeframe would require P&T to schedule a three to five day meeting within 60 calendar days from when the charges are first filed with the Committee, may not be feasible. In addition, accommodations to request extensions to this deadline are very limited.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of a [Proposed Policy from the UC President on Open Access for Theses and Dissertations](#). The policy is a revision to an earlier policy dated October 23, 2015. Under the new policy, an embargo period of up to two years can be requested by the graduate student. To extend the embargo period beyond the two years, the student's dissertation advisor or equivalent must send a written request to the Graduate Division to extend the embargo for two-year periods. Following comments from Graduate Council and the Library Committee, DIVCO recommends that the existing simpler procedure of requesting either a two year or six year embargo be retained. The six year period is necessary for graduate students working in book-based disciplines.

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

Sincerely,
Oliver O'Reilly
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Professor of Mechanical Engineering