



The Fortnightly

May 1, 2019

Welcome to the fourteenth 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 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 fourteenth meeting of DIVCO was held on Monday, April 29. This was the sixth meeting of DIVCO this semester. Items on the agenda included

1. Discussion of the [Proposed amendments to Senate Regulation 636.E](#);

2. Discussion of the [use of contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusion \(DEI\) statements for academic positions at the University of California;](#)
3. Discussion of the [Proposed New Academic Personnel Manual \(APM\), Section 011, Academic Freedom, Protection of Professional Standards and Responsibilities of Non-Faculty Academic Appointees \(APM- 011\)](#)
4. Discussion of the [Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation \(CAPRA\) comments on the proposed Upper Hearst project;](#)
5. Discussion of guidelines for conducting Senate business electronically in the current regulatory and technological environment, 2004, revised 2011, 2019.
6. Discussion of “A Vision for Graduate Education”
7. Discussion of retiree health benefits

The proposed amendments to Senate Regulation 636.E are designed to broaden the avenues by which students can satisfy the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR). The proposed regulation will permit students to complete this requirement by completing non-UC coursework while on “an approved leave of absence for non-academic reasons.” Comments on the amendments were review submitted by the Committees on Admissions, Enrollment, and Preparatory Education (AEPE), Courses of Instruction (COCI), Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate, and Rules and Elections. Both AEPE and COCI raised concerns about the precise meaning of “an approved leave of absence for non-academic reasons.” COCI commented that the amendment could be broadened to allow students to satisfy the Entry Level Writing Requirement during summer sessions or through concurrent enrollment.

The discussion of the required submission of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) statements by applicants for academic positions and in merit and promotion cases at the University of California was led by the chair of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate, David Ahn. The Committee was in favor of using DEI statements as part of the merit and promotion process. Currently such statements are not a mandatory component of a merit and promotion case but they are being increasingly used in faculty hiring. Additional comments were made by Kris Gutierrez from the Committee on Budget and Interdepartmental Relations (BIR) as well as several elected members of DIVCO. Concerns were raised about enforcement of the requirement and the manner in which service is evaluated in merit and promotion cases. Barbara Spackman recommended that BIR spearhead the development of a rubric for implementation. DIVCO also recommended the development of discipline-specific guidelines for departments and schools.

The new policy on academic freedom, protection of professional standards, and responsibilities of non-faculty academic appointees was developed in response to lack of protections for librarians. Comments on the policy were submitted by the Committee on Academic Freedom and the Committee on Library. The new policy was broadly considered to be a welcome addition to the protection and freedoms of non-faculty appointees.

Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, the chair of the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) discussed a statement by CAPRA on the Upper Hearst Project. The statement was prepared by CAPRA in preparation for the Special Meeting of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate on May 1. The statement discusses long-standing concerns that CAPRA has with the planning and approval of capital projects on campus. In addition, CAPRA’s concerns about parking, housing, and the finances of the project are also raised.

Revised guidelines for conducting Senate business were presented by the chair of the Committee on Rules and Elections, Division Secretary David Milnes. These guidelines accommodate the increased use of videoconferencing and the use of cloud-based storage of documents.

The penultimate item of business was a presentation on “A Vision for Graduate Education” by Elena Conis, vice chair of the Graduate Council. The purpose of the document was to establish three principles that the campus could use to contextualize graduate education in keeping with the strategic planning process. A spirited and informative discussion of the document followed. In particular, the role played by graduate students in Discovery Experiences and the need for the promotion of graduate education were raised.

Closing the meeting, Ken Polse, co-chair of the Committee on Faculty Welfare, discussed recent developments at the University of California Office of the President on retiree health benefits.

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

Sincerely,
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