Dear Colleagues,

Last week was quite a Big Game week on campus! It started with the looming possibility of another PG&E power outage, continued with the visit of Ann Coulter to campus, and ended with a dramatic Cal victory in the Big Game. The power outages have prompted the formation of a Task Force on Resilient Instruction, to be cosponsored by the Administration, the ASUC, the Graduate Assembly, and the Academic Senate. The task force is being co-chaired by the Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education, Cathy Koshland, and the Senate Chair, Oliver O’Reilly. Invitations to serve on the task force are being sent out to approximately 20 faculty, staff, and students. It is expected that the task force will complete its report by March 20, 2020.

Saturday, October 3, 2020, marks the sesquicentennial of a memorial resolution by the Regents “that young ladies be admitted into the University on equal terms in all respects with young men.” A campus-wide celebration is currently being planned and a history project led by Cathy Gallagher and Sheila Humphreys has been started. One way you can contribute to the project is to submit historical information on students, staff, faculty, and friends of the campus online at https://150w.berkeley.edu/

The start of the celebration will be the Cal-Stanford women’s basketball game on Sunday, January 12, at 5 p.m. A Calmessage will be sent out in early December notifying the campus community of pick up locations and times free tickets to the game will be available.

The Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate is currently in the process of fundraising to support staff, improve furnishings, and to refurbish certain areas of the Senate’s offices in Stephens Hall. The goal is to raise $30,000 to help with the effort and letters have been sent to former Senate chairs and recipients of Senate awards, such as the Distinguished Teaching Award and the Faculty Research Lecture. Donations from all Senate members are certainly welcome. In addition to a transfer of discretionary funds and mailing donations to the UC Berkeley Foundation, funds can also be donated online.

DIVCO held its 6th meeting of the semester on Monday, November 18th. Chair O’Reilly’s announcements included:

1. The formation of a Senate Faculty Relations Group. This group of faculty, led by the Division Chair, will assist University Development and Alumni Relations (UDAR) and the California Alumni Association (CAA) in locating faculty expertise for campus outreach and fundraising efforts.

2. Updates on the possibility of a PG&E power outage on Wednesday, November 20th.
The beginning of the meeting was devoted to hearing additional comments on a revision to the Presidential Policy on Copyright Ownership. Information about the new policy can be found at https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/underreview/presidential-policy-copyright-ownership-review-2019.pdf

A response to the systemwide Senate is currently being composed to summarize concerns about the new policy and the need for additional clarifications and improved communication.

Much of the meeting was devoted to Senate committee reports on the external review of the Department of Anthropology. As is common in Academic Program Reviews, reports were provided by the Graduate Council; Undergraduate Council; the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate; and the Committee on Budget and Interdepartmental Relations. These reports were composed in response to the report compiled by the external review committee and the response to that external report by the department. DIVCO will submit a letter to the Vice Provost for Academic Planning, Lisa Alvarez-Cohen, who is in charge of academic program reviews, summarizing the discussion at the meeting and presenting DIVCO’s recommendations.

The latter half of the meeting consisted of a presentation by the Director for Digital Learning, Suzanne Harrison, on resources that are available to faculty to compose course materials that are ADA compliant. In addition, resources for faculty to pre-record lectures and compose syllabi in formats that are ADA compliant were presented. Information about inclusive design of course materials can be found at: https://dls.berkeley.edu/accessibility

Thank you for your continued interest in our Senate and our campus. Wishing you and yours a happy and peaceful Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,

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

Jennifer Johnson-Hanks
Vice Chair of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
Professor of Demography and Sociology