



The Fortnightly

October 22, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

With the PG&E power outage and its aftereffects, it's been quite a fortnight on campus! At the debriefings that occurred last week, many people expressed profound gratitude to the staff for their extraordinary work during the outage. We, too, are grateful to the staff, and also to Division Secretary J. Keith Gillless who generously served on the campus's Crisis Management Team on behalf of the Senate during the outage. The Senate is fortunate to have a member with Keith's expertise. For the Senate, the outage revealed the urgency of making our courses more resilient to interruptions of different kinds. We plan on convening a task force in the spring to examine this issue, and in the meantime share this resource, with thanks to Associate Professor Anthony Joseph (EECS) and Vice Chancellor for Research Randy Katz:

<https://teaching.berkeley.edu/resources-ensure-your-class-always-meets>

With regards to the search for the new UC President, we are pleased to inform you that our campus nominees for the Academic Advisory Committee are professors Jeffrey Knapp, Randy Schekman, and Barbara Spackman. One of these distinguished colleagues will be selected in the coming weeks by the Systemwide Academic Senate Chair, and we will keep you informed on this selection. A joint Senate-Berkeley Faculty Association (BFA) town hall meeting to discuss the search will be held on :

Wednesday, November 13 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM in 402 Barrows Hall

Details on the guest speakers will be forthcoming. Our thanks to Michael Burawoy and the BFA for initiating this event. Oliver has also gathered data from the Berkeley faculty on the qualities and qualifications they wish to see in the new UC President. Please feel free to reach out to him if you'd like to see the results of the survey. They will also be distributed at DIVCO.

In other news, the [Capital Campaign](#) will hold a kick-off event on Saturday, February 29, 2020 (Leap day in the year of perfect vision!). This will mark the public phase of the \$6B campaign.

The Celebration of 150 Years of Berkeley Women will hold its tip-off event at the Cal-Stanford women's basketball game on Sunday, January 12, 2020. More information on this event can be found on the soon-to-be-live website:

www.150w.berkeley.edu

and on the twitter feed: [@WomenatCal150](https://twitter.com/WomenatCal150)

We remind you that the once-per-semester meetings of the Berkeley Division of the Senate will be held in Sibley Auditorium, Bechtel Engineering Center, from 3-5 PM on:

Monday, November 4

Thursday, April 30

These meetings are an important opportunity for Senate faculty to participate in the governance of the university. Please make it a priority to attend. We are pleased that EVCP Paul Alivisatos will be present to discuss forthcoming capital projects. These projects will affect the entire campus and we strongly urge you to attend the November 4 meeting.

<https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/meetings/division-meetings/fall-2019>

Your Divisional Council met for the fourth time of the fall on Monday, October 21st. Much of the meeting was devoted to the topic of capital planning. As we have shared before, campus is about to enter a phase in which an unusually large number of buildings will be built or retrofit and renovated. DIVCO shares with the administration a commitment that this process be as effective as possible. To that end, DIVCO has developed a set of advisory principles for decision-making regarding capital projects, which were discussed and will be posted on the Senate webpage when approved.

We also had a second conversation with Vice Provost for Academic Planning Lisa Alvarez-Cohen and Vice Chancellor of Finance-Chief Financial Officer Rosemarie Rae about the newly-developed process for the approval of specific capital projects. At the heart of this new process are three parallel parts, each with Senate representation: a finance committee, an academic programming committee, and a set of technical reviews. The Capital Projects Finance Committee will be a standing committee, with Senate members appointed by COMS serving alongside representatives of the administration. It will be charged with conducting comparative analyses of the financial implications of different potential campus projects. The technical review is already in place, and consists of seismic-, design-, and sustainability reviews. Academic Program Committees, in contrast to the others, will be ad hoc committees appointed for each specific project, to ensure that there is relevant local expertise about the kinds of scholarly and pedagogical work that each project will enable. DIVCO felt that this new process is robust, with a considerable role for Senate participation, and looks forward to seeing it in action in upcoming capital projects.

DIVCO then discussed the Academic Program Review of the German Department. Academic Program Review is a critical part of ensuring the comprehensive excellence of our university. In collaboration with the vice provost for academic planning, the Senate generally conducts 6 to 8 such reviews every year, ensuring that all departments and schools are reviewed at least once every 10 years. These reviews should provide guidance both for departments and for the administration about how to sustain and extend scholarly and pedagogical excellence.

Our final topic this week at DIVCO concerned Unit 18 lecturers. The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation brought forward a statement recognizing the important work that lecturers do, now teaching over 40% of the student credit hours on campus. DIVCO discussed this statement, and will take it up again at our next meeting.

Thank you for your continued interest in our Senate and our campus.

Sincerely,

Oliver O'Reilly
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Professor of Mechanical Engineering

Jennifer Johnson-Hanks
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