



The Fortnightly

September 12, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to the fall semester, and to the sixteenth issue of a fortnightly digest of news from the Division Council (DIVCO) of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate! DIVCO is one of the key mechanisms through which we as faculty fulfill our privilege and obligation of shared governance of the campus: we are your representatives. *The Fortnightly* was created last year by then-Vice Chair Oliver O'Reilly. Its purpose is to summarize information about the issues that DIVCO addresses, as well as introduce other important ongoing issues that do or will affect faculty. Communication is always a challenge on a campus as large as ours, and this digest is intended to help address that challenge. Faculty governance works best when faculty are informed and speak up: please feel free to write to me <johnsonhanks@berkeley.edu> or to Chair Oliver O'Reilly <oreilly@berkeley.edu> with questions, concerns, or opinions about what you read [here](#). Another important way to get information and get involved is to come to the Division Meetings, open to all faculty. This year the will both be held in Sibley Auditorium, in the Bechtel Engineering Center from 3-5 pm. The dates are:

Monday, November 4

Thursday, April 30

The notice for the fall meeting will be posted to the Senate website in late October. See: <https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/meetings/division-meetings>

DIVCO meets every two weeks during the semester. Membership of DIVCO, the schedule of these meetings, and approved minutes from previous meetings can all be found online at:

<https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/committees/divco>

More detail about 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 first meeting of DIVCO for 2019-20 was held on Monday, September 9. The first meeting of the year usually includes more announcements and updates than actions by DIVCO, and this meeting was no exception. Announcements included:

1. The history, practices, and authority of the Senate. Most of this information is available at: <https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/about>
2. Chair O'Reilly's priorities for this year include ensuring that the Senate plays a role in overseeing the development of a new process for the review and approval of capital projects; improving relations between the Senate and University Development and Alumni Relations, the California Alumni Association, and Intercollegiate Athletics; the celebration of 150 years of women at Berkeley (see: <https://bsa.berkeley.edu/news/celebrating-150-years-women-uc-berkeley>); addressing the working conditions of Unit 18 lecturers; improving the working conditions of Senate staff members; and building bridges between the Senate and department chairs across campus.
3. The Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) and Campus Master Plan are currently underway. Every decade or so the campus updates the plan for the physical space of the campus: buildings, green spaces, transportation, and so forth. Your input is needed! A campus wide survey is open now until September 30 at: <https://ucbsurveys.berkeley.edu/LRDP-CMP.html>. Apparently responses from faculty have been few. Please take a few minutes to give your thoughts about campus planning. For more information about the LRDP process, see: <https://lrpd.berkeley.edu>
4. The proposed Upper Hearst building project is currently on hold. Background information about this project is available at: <https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/meetings/special-meetings/special-meeting-upper-hearst-project>. A report from faculty and staff asked to review the finances of the proposed project is expected by the end of September.
5. The Senate committee on Admissions, Enrollment, and Preparatory Education (AEPE) worked with the Systemwide auditors over the summer to complete a mandatory audit of campus' admissions practices. Overall Berkeley's practices are excellent. We should expect some discussions over the course of this year about changes on the margins, especially concerning the admission of transfer students.

We also heard from Chancellor Carol Christ, Director of Athletics Jim Knowlton, and Vice Chancellor for Finance Rosemarie Rae about the Athletics budget. Athletics is one of several units on campus that has for many years been budgeted in deficit, with the deficits "bought out" by central campus at the end of each year. There are many problems with this practice (non-transparency bad for morale, low accountability...), and Chancellor Christ has decided to instead budget Athletics at what it costs, hold the department strictly to that budget, and follow a multi-year plan to reduce the central campus allocation they receive as the department raises more

revenue. Retrospective information about the Athletics budget is available at: <https://calbears.com/sports/2015/9/8/210327589.aspx>. We expect that more details about the athletics budget agreement will be available from the Chancellor soon.

Thank you for your interest in our Senate and our campus. I look forward to writing to you over the course of this year.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Johnson-Hanks
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Professor of Demography and Sociology