



The Fortnightly

September 1, 2018

I would like to welcome you to the first 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.

DIVCO meets every two weeks during the semester. A schedule of these meetings can be found online at

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

In addition, approved minutes from previous meetings will be posted on this site starting this fall. The site also contains details and correspondence on current issues.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that this fall's Division meeting will be held on

Monday, October 29 from 3:00 to 5:00pm in the Toll Room of the Alumni House

In addition, the campus will hold its [annual memorial service](#) to honor members of the campus community who have passed on

Monday, September 10 at noon at the flagpole west of California Hall

The first meeting of DIVCO was held on Monday, August 27, and Division Chair Barbara Spackman laid out the issues facing DIVCO this Academic Year. These issues include

1. Review of the Berkeley Strategic Plan. Drafts are available at <https://strategicplan.berkeley.edu/>. The draft reports are currently being reviewed by several Senate committees with the goal of providing Senate feedback to the Chancellor by mid-October.
2. Analysis of the growth of areas of instruction (including online courses, certificates and "micro-degrees" offered through EdX) that are currently outside the purview of the Senate.
3. Prospective growth of faculty. While being cognizant that donors may play a role in

expanding the number of faculty, the Senate seeks to ensure that the growth preserves the comprehensive excellence that is a hallmark of UC Berkeley.

4. Retiree health-care benefits. Based on the recommendations of a July 3, 2018 report from the Working Group on Retiree Health Benefits, UC President Janet Napolitano has stated there will be “No significant changes to the retiree health program for 2019.” The Working Group will continue to review ongoing options for retiree health care through 2019. The Senate is grateful to the many faculty members who voiced their concerns to the UC Office of the President (UCOP) on this important matter. DIVCO will continue to monitor any updates from UCOP.
5. The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) will continue its work examining administrative staffing on campus.
6. Inadequate financial support of graduate students.
7. Faculty support to address Disabled Student Program (DSP) accommodations.

Reports and updates on several of these topics will appear on the Senate’s website over the course of the Academic Year. Thanking you for your engagement.

Sincerely,

Oliver O’Reilly

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