

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Friday, September 4, 2020

Attendees: Chair Robin DeLugan, Vice Chair LeRoy Westerling, Christopher Viney, Ashlie Martini, Patti LiWang, Hrant Hratchian, Matthew Hibbing, Abbas Ghassemi, Kara McCloskey, Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez, Carolin Frank, Erin Hestir, Jessica Trounstine, and Justin Yeakel.

I. Welcome and Introductions – Chair DeLugan

Chair DeLugan welcomed the AY 20-21 members and asked each member to introduce themselves. Chair DeLugan thanked members for serving.

II. Consultation with Chancellor Muñoz and EVC/Provost Camfield

EVC/Provost Camfield announced that fall 2020 enrollment looks positive. Though the campus has fallen short of the enrollment goal that was established before the pandemic, UC Merced's reputation is growing and he is hopeful that the campus will recover from the effects of the pandemic. One area on campus that is seriously impacted is auxiliary services and the administration is working to remedy the budget shortfall. However, there are many variables to consider in the campus's recovery, for example, future economic stimulus bills and the outcome of the 2020 election. EVC/Provost Camfield stated that he intends to communicate regularly with CAPRA this academic year on budget and planning.

Chancellor Muñoz stated that the fall 2020 enrollment numbers are a reason to be cautiously optimistic about the campus's post-pandemic recovery. While the enrollment numbers have not reached the campus's previous target, there was no precipitous drop in numbers, either. He is pleased that current students wish to stay at UC Merced and new students wish to enroll. Chancellor Muñoz also thanked Chair DeLugan for the positive communication he has had with her, and emphasized the need for reciprocity, cooperation, and transparency between all areas of the campus. He informed DivCo members that he has spoken with community groups and while many people are familiar with UC Merced, some know very little about the campus and expressed curiosity about the admissions process. On a positive note, UC Merced does have advocates across the country. New rankings will be released next week, and UC Merced has had significant success with grant activity lately. There are several reasons to be proud of our campus.

III. Consultation with VPDUE Frey and EVC/Provost Camfield

EVC/Provost Camfield stated that by the end of the first week of October, campus leadership has to decide the plan for spring semester instruction. VPDUE Frey added that she is working on an aggressive plan and examining a lot of data. She will soon be communicating with Senate committees and asking for their input. EVC/Provost Camfield acknowledged that there are several variables to consider, including the plans of the local schools and day care facilities. If these are not reopened, many faculty members will have to conduct online instruction for the spring semester. He also pointed out that there are types of instruction that are only feasible to conduct in person, such as engineering capstone experiences. He asked the Senate for its input on what types of data he and VPDUE Frey need to collect. VPDUE Frey added that she has heard feedback from faculty and understands that they need a clear plan for spring instruction that will be communicated to them early, and will not pivot.

GC Chair Hratchian asked how graduate education factors in on the campus priority list, as graduate students (as well as post docs) are a significant part of the campus research enterprise. EVC/Provost Camfield replied that he would like the Senate's input on this. One of the options is to stage graduate seminars which use less space. EVC/Provost Camfield also mentioned that he is considering how to stage faculty back into their offices. He will determine how many faculty wish to return to their offices and how often, and he will begin mapping it for the fall semester. GC Chair Hratchian stated that per interim VPDGE Kello and interim VCORED Zatz approximately 30 to 35% of graduate students are part of an opening plan. He advised the EVC/Provost to contact individual departments, because the needs will vary across disciplines. He intends to discuss this with GC members. CAPRA Chair LiWang pointed out that faculty are asking questions such as, will the campus not reopen until there is a vaccine and what are the various levels of reopening, and what class sizes and lab experiences will be allowed. Faculty want transparency and clarity. UGC Chair Hibbing requested a full picture of what the full demand is for in-person learning, i.e. if everyone received their desired amount of in-person instruction, how many students is that? VPDUE Frey answered that she is working on those numbers. CoR Chair McCloskey stated that the campus needs to have clear priorities for who needs to be on campus. She suggested that the first priority should be letting the graduate students back into labs on campus. The second priority should be letting undergraduate students back into the labs. She asked whether faculty can provide input on such priorities. EVC/Camfield replied that he would welcome faculty members' priorities and he will also consult with department chairs. He will share the priority lists he receives.

IV. Chair's Report and Announcements – Chair DeLugan

Chair DeLugan stated that a greater effort will be made moving forward to ensure that CoC thoroughly vets potential faculty members for service on Senate committees. CoC has established principles which are available to DivCo members. She shared that she participates in the weekly senior leadership meetings that focus on planning and research relaunch plans. She added that per the recent campus communication, visitors to campus will be stopped at entry checkpoints for health checks. Faculty, staff, and students are being tested for the coronavirus. Many faculty are getting their operational research plans approved and returning to campus.

Chair DeLugan thanked DivCo members for their participation in the annual Shared Governance Retreat from August 24-25. The retreat was a success.

She reminded DivCo members of the Five-Year Planning Perspectives document which is currently being reviewed by Senate committees. The deadline for committees to comment is Friday, September 11.

Chair DeLugan stated that she, AVC Dania Matos, and AVC Jonathan Grady are co-leading the Valuing Black Lives task force. The task force is comprised of subcommittees that includes representatives from Senate faculty, non-Senate faculty, staff, students, administrators, and community members. Each subcommittee is charged with focusing on particular areas, such as research. The task force will present a report to the Chancellor in December.

The fall Meeting of the Division will be held on one of two possible dates. Chair DeLugan asked DivCo members to send their availability to Senate Executive Director Paul.

V. Consent Calendar**A. The Agenda**

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

VI. Conduct of Committee Business**A. Meeting Dates and Membership****B. Committee Confidentiality**

C. Distributing work on Divisional Council (e.g leads will be assigned the review of some items, as relevant. DivCo may also assign a lead for discussion items).

D. Conflict of Interest Statement (all committees, at the beginning of each AY are encouraged to review their conflict of interest policy).

Chair DeLugan asked DivCo members to review the above information. She and Executive Director Paul will decide which committees will be identified as lead reviewers of the various systemwide and campus review items. However, all committees have access to all the review items on the weekly Senate email digest and on the Senate website. Any committee can opine on any review item even if it was not identified as a lead review committee.

Chair DeLugan then asked DivCo members to review the DivCo conflict of interest policy

Action: a vote was held to endorse the DivCo conflict of interest policy. The policy was endorsed unanimously.

VII. Discussion: DivCo's Goals for AY 2020-2021

Chair DeLugan asked DivCo members to discuss their respective committees' goals for AY 20-21 and determine if there are campus leaders that DivCo would like to invite to future Divisional Council meetings.

- CAPRA Chair LiWang stated that CAPRA is dedicated to helping the EVC/Provost and the faculty make the academic planning process work. The campus is in Phase II of academic planning.
- Senate Vice Chair Westerling stated that in the context of PROC, that committee needs to be mindful of the workload burden on faculty and decide what tasks can be postponed.
- UGC Chair Hibbing stated that his main goals are: 1) be mindful of faculty and undergraduate student welfare, 2) work with the GE committee to complete the revisions to the GE process, and 3) work with AFAC to make UC Merced's admissions processes compatible with the new systemwide processes. Senate Chair DeLugan pointed out that GE chair Valerie Leppert is invited to a future DivCo meeting to update members on the status of the GE revisions.
- GC Chair Hratchian stated that his main goals are 1) to encourage better campus support services and professional development for post docs and to help faculty with mentoring post docs; and 2) conduct budget and enrollment management discussions for graduate programs given the effects of the pandemic. He suggested a possible collaboration with CoR regarding graduate education and intramural and extramural funding.

Possible guests to future DivCo meetings could be the LASC chair to provide updates from the Library, AVC Matos, a member of the Budget Office or AVC Riley to discuss the campus budget implications, VPDUE Frey to discuss enrollment management, APAPB

Schnier and/or a member of IRDS to share their planning data, as well as Executive Director of the Center of Institutional Effectiveness Andy Boyd, Director of Space Planning & Analysis Maggie Saunders, VPF Teenie Matlock, AVPF Zulema Valdez, and interim VCORED Zatz.

VIII. CAP Revised Conflict of Interest Policy – CAP Chair Martini

CAP Chair Martini summarized the brief, proposed revision to the CAP conflict of interest policy. DivCo members had no comments.

Action: a vote was held to endorse the CAP conflict of interest policy. The policy was endorsed unanimously.

IX. Faculty Welfare COVID Mitigation Guidelines – FWF Chair Frank

The Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom (FWAF) Committee has drafted COVID mitigation guidelines to be used by departments.

FWAF Chair Frank briefly summarized the COVID mitigation guidelines. Many faculty cannot work full time due to their children's online schooling and closed day cares. The stop the clock option in the APM for untenured faculty is helpful, but not enough to mitigate faculty's challenges. The EVC/Provost asked FWF to draft the guidelines. FWF Chair Frank acknowledged that it is not possible to provide teaching release to all faculty who need it. Instead, the guidelines allow for granting teaching release to faculty who are the most affected by the impacts of the pandemic. The decision to grant teaching release will be made by the department chairs. The teaching release can be taken now, or later in order to let faculty catch up with their research. A DivCo member asked whether faculty members can self-identify as most affected or whether the decision is solely up to the department chairs. Chair Frank responded that faculty will self-identify. A DivCo member inquired what the process is if several faculty members in one department self-identify and whether the department chair will have a system of ranking the faculty who should be prioritized to receive teaching release. Chair Frank stated that untenured faculty should be the highest priority as well as those faculty who have lost the most research productivity. A DivCo member suggested that in order to rank faculty, department chairs must quantify what it means to have impacted research productivity. The member added that resource allocation under the campus's current budgetary model are at the dean level so deans may need to weigh in on granting teaching release to faculty. Another DivCo member pointed out the need to safeguard untenured faculty who do not have a collegial department and are afraid of advocating for themselves.

Action: FWF will revise the COVID mitigation guidelines to take into account the comments from today's DivCo meeting. Chair DeLugan asked DivCo members to send additional comments to FWF Chair Frank.

A DivCo member asked about the status of the reopening of the ECEC. Members replied that the ECEC is still closed and its reopening status is as yet unknown. Chair DeLugan stated that she keeps the ECEC high on her list of continuing discussion items with the EVC/Provost.

X. Other Business

GC Chair Hratchian stated that the campus is currently conducting a budgetary exercise that asks units to plan for various scenarios, i.e. 5% or 10% budget cut. He stated that DivCo needs to be informed of the progress of this exercise and be granted access to any final report the administration issues about this exercise. DivCo members agreed and suggested that APAPB Schnier could update DivCo on this budgetary exercise.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Attest: Robin DeLugan, Senate Chair