

**DIVISIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 19, 2022**

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**Attendees:** Chair LeRoy Westerling, Vice Chair Patti LiWang, Christopher Viney, Kevin Mitchell, Erin Hestir, Holley Moyes, Jason Sexton, Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez, David Jennings, Martin Hagger, Min Hwan Lee, Justin Yeakel, Jeff Butler

**I. Consultation with EVC/Provost Camfield**

EVC/Provost Camfield stated that he received two questions from Divisional Council members that he will address today.

First, he was asked what he anticipated will be the next school at UC Merced. He acknowledged he does not know but did point out that there is talk in planning discussions of a potential School of Public Health. Medical Education is a state mandate to work with the UCSF School of Medicine and has funding. While the ultimate goal may be to build a medical school at UC Merced, the likelihood of that occurring in less than ten years is practically nil. It's more likely to happen in about fifteen years contingent on funding to make it viable. Funding is needed to manage the students and develop partnerships with clinical training sites for students. A potential School of Public Health is much more likely to be proposed, and sooner.

EVC/Provost Camfield stated that the School of Natural Sciences has in its strategic planning a desire to develop tracks for discipline-based educational degrees. Whether this can occur within the School of Natural Sciences or a new, independent unit is unclear at this time. In the fall, the campus will bring in consultants to help envision what these educational degrees could look like. Even if it is determined that such degrees would be housed under an independent department of education in SNS or elsewhere, that would take a long time. EVC/Provost Camfield reiterated that other than the potential School of Public Health, there will be no new schools in the short term.

A Divisional Council member asked if the potential School of Public Health would manage medical education. EVC/Provost Camfield answered it would not, however, it could become a School of Health Sciences similar to other campuses. For the near term, though, medical education at UC Merced is being driven by UCSF under their accreditation. A Divisional Council member inquired about the timeline if a potential School of Public Health were to be proposed. EVC/Provost Camfield replied that he believes it would depend on what happens in SSHA over the next year as they envision what they want their future to be. The pre-proposal, proposal, and review process is lengthy. A Divisional Council member pointed out that some faculty in SSHA will be concerned about the departments of psychological sciences and public health leaving SSHA. EVC/Provost Camfield responded that CAPRA's insight would be helpful in this regard as they have an institutional-level view of academic planning.

The second question EVC/Provost Camfield said he received from Divisional Council pertained to the high cost of MCS faculty. He summarized previous campus leadership decisions that led to management being placed in the School of Engineering and that the economics department changed to economics and business management. It became problematic to get undergraduate students that MCS faculty could teach. Now, the situation is improved and MCS faculty are teaching undergraduate students. However, the students are in one school and the MCS faculty are in another. The undergraduate teaching load is spread out due to a lack of coherent core. The dean of the potential Gallo School would need to manage that process to ensure full cross-collaboration between the departments; the burden should not be placed on faculty at the departmental level. EVC/Provost Camfield emphasized that it is a question of having resources used efficiently. The administration is tasked with providing structures so that faculty can do their work. EVC/Provost Camfield

stated that his hope for the potential Gallo School is that the administration can provide the necessary structure.

## II. Updates from Professor Carrie Menke, Chair of the DivCo Anti-Racism Working Group

Professor Menke reminded Divisional Council members that the Chancellor allocated \$100,000 to combat anti-racism on campus. Two different initiatives have emerged as a result: the anti-racism mini grants program and the Senate self-assessment. The working group is trying to hire a contractor, Jobi Martinez, who will facilitate the self-assessment. The original proposal called for both a quantitative (surveys) and qualitative (interviews) element. The Senate should be tasked with facilitating the self-assessment. Dr. Martinez would conduct one to two 45-minute training sessions with facilitators so they have a shared understanding of the goal of self-assessment. In addition, she will provide templates for surveys and interview questions. Senate staff would be included in the interviews. Dr. Martinez would ultimately analyze all the data and prepare a report for the Senate to review. Professor Menke stated that this whole process can be completed in AY 22-23.

Professor Menke added that Divisional Council and CAP are two of the committees the working group discussed.

A Divisional Council member asked if the submission deadline for the mini-grant proposals can be extended. Professor Menke replied that she would be in favor of that. So far, just five proposals have been submitted. The working group members will review the proposals and if they need assistance, they will ask EDI. She added that if a working group member submits a proposal, they will recuse from the review process.

Chair Westerling asked if Dr. Martinez can conduct the interviews before the Senate leadership turns over for AY 22-23. Professor Menke pointed out that this would involve faculty having to do service work over the summer. She added that the interviews, focus groups, and surveys could include participation from current and past Senate leadership (this includes all Senate committee chairs).

**Action:** at the Senate Chair's request, Working Group Chair Menke will email Senate Executive Director Paul with a formal request to extend the deadline of the anti-racism mini-grant submissions.

## III. Consent Calendar

- A. The Agenda
- B. May 5 Meeting Minutes

**Action:** the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

## IV. Executive Session

No minutes were recorded.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am  
Attest: LeRoy Westerling, Senate Chair