

**DIVISIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Tuesday, December 6, 2022**

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**Attendees:** Chair Patti LiWang, Vice Chair Catherine Keske, Christopher Viney, Peggy O’Day, Martin Hagger, Sapana Doshi, Paul Almeida, Michael Scheibner, Holley Moyes, Jason Sexton, David Jennings, Jeff Butler, Jessica Trounstine, and Shilpa Khatri.

**I. Chair’s Report – Patti LiWang**

A. Academic Council (Nov. 21, 2022)

Chair LiWang provided no updates.

B. Meeting with EVC/Provost Camfield (Nov. 28, 2022)

The major topics of discussion included:

- Emergency preparedness planning. The EVC/Provost will provide updates in the future.
- The Registrar’s website and Catalog had the incorrect dates listed for spring break 2023. The dates have been corrected: March 27 – 30, and March 31 is Cesar Chavez Day.
- Another meeting will be held regarding the Gallo School pre-proposal and SSHA on December 12. This meeting will include the Gallo School pre-proposal leadership.

C. Strike Updates

Chair LiWang asked Divisional Council members if the Senate should advocate for a blanket extension to the grading deadline. A Divisional Council member spoke in favor of this, because some junior faculty and Unit 18 lecturers are not comfortable asking for extensions. A blanket extension may be the efficient way forward, as it would eliminate the need for additional emails and meetings on this topic.

D. The Fall Meeting of the Division will be held on December 13. Chair LiWang asked Divisional Council members if they wish to provide oral reports on their committees’ fall semester business or use that time for other discussion topics. FWAF Chair Jennings suggested a discussion on the impacts of the pandemic and the strike on faculty personnel evaluation. CAP Chair O’Day agreed and also requested a discussion on the proposed climate institute and the allocation of the climate funds. GC Chair Scheibner requested a discussion of the impact of the strike on graduate students and faculty.

**II. Consultation with VPAAS Spitzmüller and Assistant EVC/Provost Martin**

The purpose of their visit was to update Divisional Council members on campus strategic planning. Summary of slides presented at the meeting:

1) Metrics progress

Assistant EVC/Provost Martin and VPAAS Spitzmueller have spoken with CAPRA about aligning planning and strategic planning measures to advance toward a common set of measures for the campus.

A Divisional Council member asked whether academic planning (completed by the Schools) and strategic planning are the same thing. Assistant EVC/Provost Martin answered that there is overlap between the two.

The next step with regard to metrics is for Assistant EVC/Provost Martin and VPAAS Spitzmueller to consult with VC/CDO Saenz on EDI, consult with the strategic planning teams, and solicit review from the Senate. A Divisional Council member asked if Senate consultation could occur earlier in the process. VPAAS Spitzmueller replied that all the strategic planning teams have Senate committee representation. Assistant EVC/Provost Martin added that if any Senate committee wishes to discuss the measures, they should contact her.

2) Developing communications

This involves initiating a regular strategic planning communication from the EVC/Provost, developing presentation to Schools and departments, and finalizing a brief overview of the strategic plan.

3) Planning team consultations

Assistant EVC/Provost Martin and VPAAS Spitzmueller have consulted with: the Senior Administrators Council, CAPRA, and related planning teams. They have also identified additional groups to consult and are inviting Senate committees to meet with one or more planning teams as desired. Assistant EVC/Provost Martin gave Divisional Council members advice on Senate committees' potential consultations with the strategic planning teams (e.g. limit the teams' presentations to 15 minutes) and asked Council members to contact her to schedule.

Assistant EVC/Provost Martin then presented a slide with the names of each strategic planning team: Public and Scholarly Influence of Research; Research and Creative Activities; Educational Opportunities; Academic, Personal, and Career Preparation; and International Perspective. The memberships of the teams and the associated objectives were all shared with Divisional Council prior to this meeting.

4) Coming: updated academic plans and the budget call

Assistant EVC/Provost Martin stated that the fiscal year 2024 budget call will be released soon. The EVC/Provost's office will work with CAPRA on budget requests.

### III. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's Agenda
- B. November 15 Meeting Minutes
- C. Revised Proposal for a Philosophy Department

Divisional Council member Jennings recused from the voting on item C due to a conflict of interest.

**Action:** The Consent Calendar was approved as presented with the recusal of member Jennings.

### IV. New School Process Work Group

EVC/Provost Camfield's memo was linked on today's agenda. In the memo, EVC/Provost Camfield requested Academic Senate representation to a Senate-Administration Work Group to review and revise the Policy for the Establishment of Schools and Colleges. The Work Group's charge is to

- Develop a set of principles to guide revisions to the policy
- Propose revisions to the policy for consideration by the Academic Senate and administration
- Develop revisions to account for implications of the development of new schools for existing schools

Senate Chair LiWang, GC Chair Scheibner, and CRE Chair/Parliamentarian Viney volunteered to serve on the New School Process Work Group. CRE Chair Viney pointed out that it is critical for any proposed revisions to be ratified by the Senate. The original policy on the establishment of new schools and colleges was not ratified by the Senate and that was problematic.

Divisional Council members agreed that UGC and CAPRA should also be represented on the Work Group.

The policies from sister campuses were shared with the leadership in early Fall and are available on [DivCo's Box folder](#).

**Action:** The Senate Executive Director will follow up via email to solicit UGC and CAPRA representation for the Work Group.

#### V. **November 18 Meeting with the administrative leadership to discuss SSHA**

- A summary was distributed to Divisional Council on November 23 and was linked on today's agenda.
- Divisional Council members' comments were linked on today's agenda.

Chair LiWang informed Divisional Council members of the confusion that occurred in the November 18 meeting. The meeting was intended to be a discussion about SSHA's future and not the Gallo School which is why the SSHA dean was in attendance but the Gallo School leadership was not. However, in the meeting, VPAAS Spitzmueller announced she had a series of slides on the future of the Gallo School. The Administration proposed a path forward that was viewed positively by the SSHA dean. The proposal is to create three new administrative-faculty working groups plus a coordinating committee. The proposed working groups are: Sustainable budget model for school resourcing, future of SSHA, and future of the Gallo School.

Chair LiWang asked Divisional Council members for their input on the administration's proposal to create the working groups and coordinating committee. Divisional Council members inquired whether the administration has committed resources to help SSHA. SSHA is the school that is most heavily impacted by the creation of the Gallo School and experienced structural issues that pre-date the Gallo School proposal. It is critical for SSHA to be fully engaged in all future discussions. Other Divisional Council members suggested that it is not the current policy on the establishment of new schools and colleges that is problematic; what is problematic is the implementation. Revising the policy is fine, but this should be a separate issue from the creation of the Gallo School.

A Divisional Council member stated that she is unable to support the plan of new working groups until the administration clarifies the charge and objectives of the working groups. Several other Divisional Council members agreed.

Another Divisional Council member suggested waiting for CCGA's feedback before endorsing or rejecting the administration's proposal of creating working groups. A Divisional Council member suggested that the campus needs to engage in more vision planning.

#### VI. **CAPRA Updates – Vice-Chair Almeida**

UCM named an Agricultural Experiment Station

CAPRA Vice-Chair Almeida informed Divisional Council members that CAPRA has discussed UC Merced's new designation. CAPRA has not drafted a formal memo on this subject. CAPRA Vice-Chair Almeida suggested the need for Senate oversight.

## VII. Other Business

UGC Chair Moyes shared an update from the joint UGC-GC meeting. A number of faculty have joined the strike in solidarity and their students have not received their final assignments. Those faculty have stated that they will not submit grades until the strike is over. Those students are not receiving feedback on their work and have no opportunity to improve their grade. UGC met this morning and discussed options: give students a pass/fail option based on their current grade or give students the option of dropping a class with no consequences. UGC Chair Moyes asked if the Senate can invoke one the educational continuity policy as an emergency measure. Such a measure should be available to all students, not just students whose instructors have joined the strike. UGC Chair Moyes emphasized that the emergency measure would only apply to fall semester. The Senate Executive Director recommended that UGC Chair Moyes and GC Chair Scheibner speak with VPDUE Frey and VPDGE Hratchian. Moyes agreed. *(Note, post-meeting: the UGC and GC leads will meet with VPDUE and the VPDGE on Dec 7 at 1pm)*

Divisional Council members then discussed the consequences for undergraduate students if their instructors do not submit grades on time. A Divisional Council member suggested that the campus needs better messaging, as some pro-strike faculty may not be aware of the consequences on their undergraduate students. A Divisional Council member asked what happens if a student does not discover until January that they failed one of their fall 2022 courses but they have already paid housing costs. UGC Chair Moyes replied that the university would have to reimburse the student. Another Divisional Council member pointed out that the information and knowledge those students will have lost out on this semester will be the responsibility of the faculty who teach the next courses.

UGC Chair Moyes asked Divisional Council whether they support requesting a blanket extension to the grading deadline. A Divisional Council member pointed out that a blanket delay would force faculty and Unit 18 lecturers to do TA labor and that is an equity issue. She asked what other campuses are doing in this situation. The Senate Executive Director replied that all UC campus's plans are uploaded on Box for Divisional Council to review.

**Action:** The UGC-GC leads will continue discussing this issue and make a recommendation to Divisional Council so that it is clear what Council is being asked to review and vote on.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Attest: Patti LiWang, Senate Chair