

**DIVISIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Monday, April 3, 2023**

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**Attendees:** Chair Patti LiWang, Christopher Viney, Peggy O’Day, Carrie Menke, Kevin Mitchell, Jason Sexton, Martin Hagger, Michael Scheibner, David Jennings, Jeff Butler, and Jessica Trounstone.

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

EVC/Provost Camfield shared with Divisional Council that there is disagreement about how to implement the new UAW contract. The issue of top ups is particularly contentious. A few UC campuses add additional money to GSR and TA positions on a department by department basis. During negotiations, the UC’s position was that the new wages would subsume the top ups. However, the UAW has expectations that top ups will continue. EVC/Provost Camfield stated that faculty should be consistent in following the contract as it is written. The UAW is filing grievances on variations in university practices. A Divisional Council member asked if Council needs to help in sending communications to the faculty. EVC/Provost replied that UCOP issued an FAQ, and he asked deans and department chairs to send it to faculty. The campus is trying to use only UCOP talking points.

GC Chair Scheibner asked about any activity related to the composite benefit rate (CBR) for postdocs. The percentage is scheduled to double after fiscal year 2024. EVC/Provost Camfield answered that he was under the impression that the CBR rate was uniform across the UC system, but he will check on this. He added that the rate will be increasing.

**Action :** EVC/Provost Camfield will provide the UCOP FAQ to Senate Executive Director Paul who will send it to Divisional Council.

**II. Chair’s Report – Patti LiWang**

- A. Meeting with VP Haynes (March 20)  
VP Haynes shared that there is concern at the systemwide level about a potential wildcat strike.
- B. Academic Council (March 29)
- UC President Drake stated that there is an unfair labor practice charge about UCOP’s FAQ because faculty have shared it with students which constitutes direct communication. Direct communication violates the agreement.
  - A work group on the future of doctoral programs will be established at the systemwide level and co-chaired by UC Santa Barbara’s Senate Chair.
  - The systemwide Provost wants to hold a congress on doctoral education which is separate from the aforementioned work group. This congress will not make policy; rather, it will be a gathering held at UCLA with representatives from each UC campus.
  - The University Committee on Rules & Jurisdiction (UCRJ) is formulating regulations about the use of the chat function in Zoom meetings.

- The state legislature is interested in transfer pathways for students in community colleges. The legislature wants a statement from the UC that clearly and simply articulates what students need to do in order to transfer. However, faculty have not yet been asked to help draft or vet this document. It is important for UC Merced faculty to see a draft, as Merced and Riverside will be admitting many of these transfer students. FWAFF Chair Jennings added that he heard that the statement may tell students they have an open door to transfer to any UC campus. He also heard that this statement may be added as a rider to an Assembly Bill (i.e. an extra provision that is appended to an unrelated bill in an attempt to get approval of a bill that may not have been passed on its own).
- UC Berkeley submitted a proposal for data sciences. There was some discussion about the approval process for Berkeley’s proposal versus the approval process other campuses’ proposals.

C. Staff Assembly

Senate Chair LiWang attended a Staff Assembly meeting where representatives expressed a desire for a strong relationship between staff and faculty. They also shared their concerns over staff retention.

D. Spring Meeting of the Division (May 15 at 1:30pm)  
The Meeting of the Division is confirmed.

### III. Consent Calendar

- Today’s agenda
- March 13 meeting minutes

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

### IV. UCM Draft Mission, Vision and Values Statement – Chair LiWang

VPAAS Spitzmueller is requesting the Senate feedback on the draft document. The School Executive Committees were invited to offer comments. They had none.

Divisional Council members agreed that the draft mission statement is too long, unclear, and does not prominently mention research like the current university mission statement does. The definition of academic freedom contained in the draft statement is also not currently clear and would be the subject of some debate if/when DivCo has more time to discuss it. Divisional Council members pointed out several additional areas that would benefit from heavy revision. A Divisional Council member stated that the Academic Senate’s mission statement is a good example of a clear and concise document.

A Divisional Council member suggested that the university mission statement should be drafted by faculty with input from the administration rather than the reverse. They also suggested telling VPAAS Spitzmueller that Divisional Council needs to revise this draft statement line by line using the campus strategic plan and School academic plans as references.

Another Divisional Council member suggested that the drafting of a new university mission statement should be an agenda topic at the next Senate-Administration Governance Retreat. Divisional Council members agreed with this suggestion.

**Action:** Senate Chair LiWang will share Divisional Council’s feedback with VPAAS Spitzmueller.

**V. MacKenzie Funds – GC’s Proposal for a Graduate Student Supplemental Travel Award – GC Chair Scheibner**

GC Chair Scheibner summarized GC’s proposal. A few Divisional Council members asked for clarity about the requirement for matching funds. GC Chair Scheibner replied that the graduate students only have to submit their applications – it is the responsibility of their graduate group chairs to find matching funds. The onus is not on the student applicants. Another Divisional Council member suggested removing the matching funds requirement because not all graduate groups may have travel funds. Instead, the student applicants only need to have a letter from the chair that their travel would be meaningful for their work. A member suggested that the time horizon be extended from four months given that students need to wait until their conference abstracts are accepted so they know if they are attending the conference. GC Chair Scheibner agreed to make this revision.

**Action:** Divisional Council endorsed GC’s proposal and any modifications the GC Chair deems appropriate according to Divisional Council’s suggestions.

**VI. Discussion: Process for Selecting Associate Deans of Equity, Justice and Inclusive Excellence (EJIE) – EDI Chair Menke**

EDI Chair Menke informed Divisional Council that the original idea was to appoint one associate dean in each school who would work with the campus CDO on EDI issues. However, it was announced to the campus that all three associate deans were from the same school and department. The EDI committee was not informed about, or involved in, the appointment process. EDI Chair Menke later learned that the associate dean position does not receive teaching release. The Chancellor and current CDO were also surprised about this. EDI Chair Menke met with SNS Dean Dumont who was told that the administration rejected the teaching release and asked for it not to be on the table for the associate deans. The search committee were concerned that if they did not move forward in appointing the associate deans in a timely manner, the idea would be dropped. They understand that some may be concerned all three associate deans are in the same department. EDI Chair Menke met with the current CDO who had not yet began her role when the associate dean appointment process occurred. As of now, EDI Chair Menke has not yet heard back as to the status of teaching releases.

Senate Chair LiWang encouraged Divisional Council members to respond to the faculty and academic appointee experience survey.

**VII. Campus Laptop Policy – UGC Chair Moyes**

School Executive Committees have reviewed the policy. Once approved by Divisional Council, it will be included in the AY 23-24 Catalog.

**Action:** Due to the absence of UGC Chair Moyes, this item will be added to the next Divisional Council agenda.

**VIII. CAPRA and New School Work Group Updates – Chair Mitchell**

CAPRA Chair Mitchell informed Divisional Council that the School Deans submitted their budget call requests last week. CAPRA has a very short turn around time to review them as well as the requests from other units (due April 4<sup>th</sup>) and make recommendations to the EVC/Provost. A Divisional Council member asked why CAPRA’s review time is so short. CAPRA Chair Mitchell replied that the administration had to delay issuing the campus budget call until it had clarity from UCOP on how much

money UC Merced is receiving. Last year, the budget call was pulling money from only one pot. This year, there are three pots of money: the same pot of money as last year that is generated by student enrollment, the \$25 million in ACE funding from UCOP to jumpstart new programs, and the additional funding from UCOP for staff hiring. Those extra sources of funding were not allocated until January which has caused the delay at the campus level.

CAPRA Chair Mitchell informed Divisional Council that the New School Work Group is drafting a set of principles to guide their work. He will share these principles with Divisional Council once they are finalized. He recently learned that two facilitators for the Gallo proposal have signed contracts. CAPRA Chair Mitchell added that the ad hoc subcommittee on Divisional Council needs to meet soon to work on the communication it plans to send to the campus on the status of the review of the Gallo proposal.

#### **IX. Other Business**

EDI Chair Menke reminded Divisional Council that the Senate self-assessment for anti-racism was postponed as the consultant stepped down. She asked Divisional Council for permission to contact the consultants who submitted proposals in the last application process to get a replacement. Divisional Council approved her request.

CAP Chair O'Day suggested that for next year, the onus needs to be taken off the committee chairs, and there should be a process in place for what the new consultant needs to do. She added that the Vice Provost for Academic Personnel conducted some data collection on last year's faculty personnel actions. These metrics could be useful for the process next year. CAPRA Chair Mitchell suggested that past committee members should be involved in the process next year, as new committee chairs and new members would obviously lack institutional memory.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.  
Attest: Patti LiWang, Senate Chair