

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2023

Attendees: Chair Patti LiWang, Christopher Viney, Peggy O’Day, Carrie Menke, Kevin Mitchell, Jason Sexton, Holley Moyes, Heather Bortfeld, Michael Scheibner, Charlie Eaton, David Jennings, Shilpa Khatri, Jeff Butler, and Jessica Trounstone.

I. Consultation with EVC/Provost Camfield and Chancellor’s Special Assistant Zatz

EVC/Provost Camfield informed Divisional Council that he is struggling with regard to the Temporary Academic Staffing (TAS) budget. SSHA and SNS are running deficits and he has no choice but to push them to balance their budgets. He stated that the campus has known for four years that balancing the TAS budget had to occur. The campus previously pushed to admit more graduate students and they’ve been funded substantially off TA positions which means the TAS budget is now in deficit. It is important to balance three aspects of the budget: Senate faculty, staff who support those faculty, and temporary academic staff. Hiring Senate faculty requires a long lead time and the process contains an element of doubt: the campus never gets every hire it asks for, some faculty searches take more than a year, and some new hires are deferred. During the pandemic, the campus chose to keep hiring Senate faculty and now we have ended up with a larger number of Senate faculty than we can support with the student numbers we have. EVC/Provost Camfield stated that UC Merced uses Unit 18 lecturers at two-and-a-half times what other UC campuses do. That comes with high opportunity costs.

EVC/Provost Camfield stated that despite the administration’s efforts, the Schools have not been balancing their budgets and must do so now. Some of the new money coming from UCOP is earmarked for creating new programs to grow the campus. Any new program helps the entire campus because students are spread out across the campus. The campus is also understaffed and we want to hire more staff to remove the administrative burden from faculty. However, making these investments in new faculty, staff, and programs does not mean the Schools can neglect to balance their budgets. EVC/Provost Camfield stated that when he allocated pots of money to the Schools in the past, he assumed the deans would operate within their means. He acknowledged that perhaps he should have explicitly told the deans of the consequences if their Schools run a deficit. He added that the campus does have Senate faculty salary savings that can be applied to the deficits but that is not an optimal way to proceed in the future.

A Divisional Council member suggested that there are other ways to adjust the budgets. His colleagues in SSHA are dismayed that the changes in TA funding are being implemented very quickly with no sense of what the implications are. Also, the changes are occurring after the class sizes, enrollments, and teaching assignments have already been set for fall semester. The timing of the changes proposed by the administration is very disruptive. The Divisional Council member added that SSHA was informed that TAs will be allocated per 80 student enrollments. Special Assistant Zatz replied that that information did not come from the administration. The Divisional Council member stated that it is his understanding that graduate students who are within their first five years are guaranteed funding. Faculty in his department are concerned they will not have enough TA assignments for their graduate students and will therefore be unable honor the funding

commitment. Special Assistant Zatz replied that the campus needs to fund them in different ways, such as fellowships. The Divisional member responded that students and faculty are hearing talk of cuts and it is harmful to them to not know if they will be funded. EVC/Provost Camfield asked why the correct information is not being disseminated across campus. Since the UAW contract was signed, the administration has provided information about using fellowships to fill in funding gaps and he is unclear why that information has not reached faculty and students. EVC/Provost Camfield added that the deans and CAPRA have been aware for four years that the TAS budget has to be balanced so he is confused as to why it is viewed now as an abrupt move.

Special Assistant Zatz asked Divisional Council members to talk to their colleagues and graduate students and assure them that the campus will honor the five-year funding commitment.

A Divisional Council member informed EVC/Provost Camfield that the SSHA dean implemented the TA funding as a blanket policy across the School regardless of the graduate student numbers in the departments. EVC/Provost Camfield replied that deans and department chairs are all aware that the TA funding changes are not meant to be uniform, and it is the job of the School deans to balance their portfolio. There is clearly a breakdown of communication. A Divisional Council member asked why the campus isn't hiring more Teaching Professors. EVC/Provost Camfield replied that he is in favor of hiring them and some hires have occurred.

Senate Chair LiWang reminded EVC/Provost Camfield and Special Assistant Zatz that they were copied on a memo from Divisional Council to the Chancellor regarding the search for the permanent VC/CFO.

II. LASC Updates – LASC Chair DePrano

LASC Chair DePrano presented a series of slides to update Divisional Council on LASC and UCOLASC business during this academic year.

Inspired by the success of the HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access Service (ETAS), CDL has started Project LEND. Project LEND is a two-year project supported by The Mellon Foundation and seeks to enable services that would be broadly useful across higher education and beyond – not particular to the UC.

UCOLASC has also been discussing author rights retention in Open Access (OA) publishing. LASC Chair DePrano described the faculty-led efforts to accelerate the transition to open access. She briefly summarized the Declaration of Rights and Principles to Transform Scholarly Communication which was drafted by LASC and unanimously endorsed by UCOLASC, UCAF, UCAP, UCORP, UCACC, CCGA, UCFW, UCPB, and Academic Council, CoUL, and SLASAC (during the period of April 2018 to June 2019).

UCOLASC has learned that publishers are using License to Publish agreements to seize back author rights when authors select CC-BY-NC and CC-BY-NC-ND. By way of background, Creative Commons (CC) licenses can be used by anyone who holds copyright in the material, which is often, but not always, the creator. CC BY-NC-ND means that end users can reuse the work with attribution, but end users cannot use the work for profit, nor can end users alter the work in any way. CC licenses only restrict what end users may do under the license, not what the licensor (rights holder) can do (for example, licensors who make work available under an NC license are free to monetize their work). These License to Publish agreements are subverting

the intentions of CC-BY-NC and CC-BY-NC-ND and the California Digital Library is working to fix the problem.

LASC Chair DePrano then updated Divisional Council on a draft white paper that LASC is creating and will share with Divisional Council and CAPRA. A few of the many topics that will be addressed in the white paper are Library collections data, space, and staffing. LASC Chair DePrano informed Divisional Council members that she was told by a member of the administration that they are unclear how the Library helps the campus achieve R1 status. It is for that reason that LASC Chair DePrano will include in the executive summary an explanation of how the Library will help the campus achieve R1 status. The white paper will also demonstrate how the Library promotes the various goals in the campus strategic plan.

LASC also conducted an Open Access Ambassador Program whereby they held a half-day retreat in mid-January to train LASC members on Open Access Transformative Agreements. Each LASC member was asked to visit two departments this semester.

III. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's Agenda
- B. April 17 Meeting Minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Chair's Report – Patti LiWang {

- A. Meeting with Gallo Facilitator (April 28)

The following Divisional Council members attended the meeting with facilitators (Darcie Milazzo and Wendy Moomaw: AFAC Chair Eaton, Senate Vice Chair Moyes, CAPRA Chair Mitchell, and Senate Chair LiWang.

- B. Academic Council (April 26).

Discussion topics included:

- Transfer Pathways.
- Purchasing policy and the requirement about purchasing from small businesses. Faculty across the UC are concerned by this.
- NIH money cannot be used by faculty to top up graduate student support for research grants or training grants.
- The Systemwide Provost is advocating for a new position: "Professional TA". This would be a career role with the goal of not having to spend as much money on graduate student TAs.

- C. Spring Meeting of the Division (May 15).

Senate Chair LiWang reminded Divisional Council members the meeting will be held from 1:30-3:00pm and that a reception will be held after the meeting to recognize retiring faculty.

V. Consultation with Professors Bales and Dawson

Topic: Fossil Free Task Force Actions and Climate Crisis Committee

Professor Bales presented a series of slides on the Pathways to a Fossil Free UC – Task Force. Members were appointed by UC President Drake under the auspices of President Drake's Global

Climate Leadership Council (GCLC). Co-chairs: Mark Fischer, UCB COO and Robert Horwitz, UCSD professor and past Academic Council Chair. GCLC members represent EVCs, VCAs, VCPRs, VCSAs, VCRs Health COOs, Academic Senate, domain experts, students, staff, and outside advisors.

The task force charge is as follows:

- Develop recommendations on the steps & timelines to eliminate use of fossil fuels in each location's energy systems, including change-management needs & budget implications, as well as opportunities to advance climate research, education & student experience.
- Guide the scope, delivery, aggregation, & final packaging to the President & Chancellors of the state-funded decarbonization studies for each location (~ \$0.5-1.5M per campus).
- Ensure recommendations overcome key structural, technical, resilience, organizational, financial, operational, land use, cultural, & legal barriers, with climate justice & equity as central considerations.

This represents major organizational change, affecting the core mission of the university.

The task force sprints are as follows:

- State-funded decarbonization studies' scope & criteria (done)
- Communications & engagement (done)
- Equity & climate justice (next)
- Campuses as living laboratories for climate solutions
- Energy reliability & resilience
- Hospitals/ health systems
- Funding & legislative support

Project management plans:

- Describe plans to produce required five deliverables
- Provide governance structure
 - Faculty & student involvement
 - Engagement & marketing
 - Living-laboratory research & education components
- Provide spending plan
 - Campuses expected to spend ~ 10% on deliverables #3-5
 - Unless campus can produce these deliverables through existing programs or other funding

Professor Bales then briefly discussed the model governance structure.

Communications & engagement sprint:

- Purpose: Develop a communications framework that engages all segments of the internal UC community to embrace the decarbonization goal & participate in the work involved.

Products:

- Communications framework
- Slide deck presentation

What:

- Build awareness & engagement for the university’s decarbonization goal among all segments of the UC community & provide meaningful avenues for input & participation.
- Engage the campus community in aligning decarbonization with our core mission through integration with teaching, research, service & health-care activities.
- Empower & support climate champions within the UC community who can lead in this alignment.

Why:

- To accelerate decarbonization across UC locations by making it a shared priority across UC stakeholder groups.
- To provide meaningful ways for all members of the UC community to get involved in decarbonization efforts.
- To demonstrate to external audiences UC’s commitment to ending its reliance on fossil fuels & serving as a model that other public entities can follow.
- To support the creation of a more-sustainable institution that aligns with 21st-century needs & realities of students, faculty & staff.

Topline messages:

- Climate change is an urgent threat caused primarily by burning fossil fuels. Meeting this challenge requires creative, inclusive & decisive action. We need everyone to help UC meet this challenge.
- Decarbonizing UC’s campuses aligns with UC’s core mission of teaching, research & public service. It also reflects our values of inclusivity & social justice.
- Forward-looking investments will save money & avoid financial exposure to climate-associated damage. We should be guided by science when balancing budget tradeoffs & recognize the costs associated with inaction.
- Decarbonizing is challenging but possible: the solutions we need exist today. UC has helped develop many of these solutions.
- We can use our experience to help others meet the challenge. If UC can’t overcome barriers to decarbonizing, how can we expect others to do so?
- UC researchers have helped document & predict the severity of the climate crisis. Our UC system is committed to following the consensus of our own world-leading scientific experts to adapt to climate change that is already impacting our communities and mitigate to prevent future impacts.

Tone & presentation:

- Clear, direct, open to questions & participation.
- Transparent, willing to engage on issues that are complex & nuanced.
- Commitment to learning, continuous improvement & collaboration across all disciplines & groups.
- Humble & audacious.

Professor Bales then suggested the next steps:

- Briefings for Divisional Council next year
- FACS leadership and Senate faculty
- Engage the Chancellor and Interim Provost and coordinate with VC Dan Okoli while providing a faculty perspective
- Leadership on advancing engagement around the living laboratory component

- Convene an ideation workshop of climate champions to help strategize on how to implement the recommendations of the communication sprint,
- Add a UC Merced representative (from Divisional Council) on ad hoc Campus Climate Crisis Committee (mainly communication).

A Divisional Council member asked about the funding model for this. Professor Bales answered that each campus must devise their own financial strategies with UCOP as a partner. The financing will likely come from a combination of a bond, loans, and donations. A Divisional Council member asked if water savings is part of this effort. Professor Bales replied that water savings would be part of it if the savings contribute to less natural gas use.

Professor Bales asked Divisional Council members to contact him with any questions.

VI. Revised Proposal for a B.S. Degree in Chemical Engineering – UGC Chair Bortfeld

The proposal was discussed at the January 23 Divisional Council meeting. Divisional Council recommended that the proposers address the comments raised by UGC. Proposers responded (UGC's memo was hyperlinked on today's agenda). At its April 10 meeting, UGC considered the proposers responses and deemed the proposers' response satisfactory. UGC approved the revised proposal.

Action: Divisional Council will discuss this item over email.

VII. Cognitive Science Honors Program – UGC Chair Bortfeld

The proposal was approved by UGC on April 24, 2023.

The proposal and UGC's approval (memo includes all Senate and Administrative comments) were hyperlinked on today's agenda.

UGC Chair Bortfeld briefly summarized the proposal and mentioned the highlights of Senate committee and administrative comments. Reviews of the proposal were generally positive.

A Divisional Council member mentioned that one reviewer made a good point that the COGS 191 course should be renamed. UGC Chair Bortfeld replied that the proposers are aware that it needs to be changed and they understand the need to be clear to their undergraduate majors about when that course has to be taken. The rationale is that students learn about the thesis process in their junior year and finish writing the thesis in their senior year.

Action: Divisional Council voted to transmit UGC's recommendations to the Administration.

VIII. P&T's memo re: Senate Service Compensation

Senate Chair LiWang summarized the P&T memo which was hyperlinked on today's agenda. P&T proposed that compensation could be provided either through course release or research funding equivalent to the cost of a course release. Divisional Council members agreed that compensation is

needed for the P&T chair and members due to the significant workload of hearings and grievances and the time commitment.

A Divisional Council member asked about the practices at other UC campuses.

Action: Senate Executive Director Paul will provide Divisional Council with information from other UC campuses.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Attest: Patti LiWang, Senate Chair