

**DIVISIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 7, 2023**

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**Attendees:** Chair Patti LiWang, Matt Hibbing, Christopher Viney, Sean Malloy, Marcos Garcia-Ojeda, Kevin Mitchell, Tao Ye, Sarah Depaoli, Michael Scheibner, Heather Bortfeld, Jayson Beaster-Jones, Shilpa Khatri, and Muey Saetern.

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Senate Chair LiWang welcomed the AY 23-24 Divisional Council members.

**II. Consent Calendar**

- A. Today's agenda
- B. May 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

**III. Chair's Report – Patti LiWang**

- A. Debrief from August 24 Meeting with VPAP Hansford re: Faculty Missing Salaries  
Several faculty members did not receive their summary salaries. Senate Chair LiWang spoke with VPAP Hansford who worked throughout the summer to rectify the issues. Unfortunately, some faculty members still have not been paid accurately or in a timely manner. VPAP Hansford is working to put processes in place in APO to ensure this problem does not occur again.
- B. Debrief from August 22 Meeting with Interim VC/CFO Schnier re: Financial Management  
Divisional Council met with Interim VC/CFO Schnier on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Divisional Council members informed him that the problems caused by Oracle are still occurring in procurement and in grant accounting. Senate Chair LiWang stated that DFA convened an "Oracle Advisory Committee" meeting with a large group of campus leaders, including Interim VC/CFO Schnier, VCR Wilson, campus Vice Chancellors, and Deans. This was mostly a series of presentations by the divisions within DFA, with a small amount of time for discussion. There appears to be some confusion because grant accounting issues should be addressed by ORED, but the Schools (under management by the Deans) handle state money and incidental money. So it is hoped to have a meeting regarding budget issues with representation from DFA, ORED, and School leadership.
- C. Debrief from Summer 23 Meetings with Gallo leads and September 6 Meeting with Dean Gilger re: SSHA Restructure  
Senate Chair LiWang reminded Divisional Council members that there was a facilitation meeting in the spring semester with relevant stakeholders in the proposed Gallo school. Separate conversations were also held with SSHA Dean Gilger and leadership from the proposed Gallo school. Dean Gilger is proposing the creation of divisions within SSHA such that the Gallo departments will be in SSHA rather than a separate School (at least initially). Staffing and resources would be provided to each Division, including the Gallo program in SSHA. Senate Chair LiWang added that if this model of creating a division within a School is successful, other Schools may want to adopt it.
- D. Systemwide Updates: Academic Council and Workgroup on the Future of Graduate Education  
The working group includes faculty leadership and several high-level administrators in the UC. In October, they will issue a preliminary document, to be discussed at a large Congress, to be held at UCLA with attendees from all 10 campuses. One of the key issues in terms of funding graduate students is the NIH cap on grad student salaries which apparently will not change. Another issue

being discussed at systemwide is transfers and guaranteed admissions. UCLA is significantly affected by attempts to force guaranteed admissions onto a particular campus but not UC Merced because we tend to happily accept most transfer students.

E. September 29 Shared Governance Retreat

On September 5, the Senate was informed that the Chancellor will not be in attendance due to other commitments, but the Interim EVC/Provost and Deans will attend. A Divisional Council member asked why the Retreat is being held later than usual. Senate Chair LiWang explained that in the past, the retreat agenda was drafted by the administration and Senate leadership had little to no input. The Senate's rationale in holding the retreat the end of September is that Senate committees will have begun meeting and will be able to contribute to the retreat discussion.

**IV. Consultation with Interim EVC/Provost Zatz**

Interim EVC/Provost Zatz stated that she is focused on the following goals:

- Increased enrollment and retention. This includes admitting more transfer students, creating new degrees, and supporting the newly-created campus honors program.
- Improve the fiscal health of the Schools and Academic Affairs through the Temporary Academic Staffing (TAS) budget and improving financial systems. The EVC/Provost's office has offered to help School staff get more training on financial systems.
- Improve faculty and staff morale.
- Support faculty research, progressing towards strategic plan goals, and reaching consensus on the proposed Gallo school and the restructuring of SSHA. The campus has pots of new money such as climate, so that is a good opportunity for faculty who conduct research in that area. The campus also has money for creating new, large, undergraduate programs and money that is associated with the campus receiving ANR status. But while the campus has these new pots of money, there is a lack of money in other areas, so the campus has to balance them. Personnel costs have increased due to staff and faculty raises and higher pay for graduate students and post docs, and utilities costs have also gone up. Unfortunately, enrollment has not increased. As a result, Interim EVC/Provost Zatz has had to be conservative with new faculty hires this year. After reviewing the budget, she realized the campus does not have enough funding due to unmet enrollment targets.

Interim EVC/Provost Zatz informed Divisional Council that her goal is to establish a process whereby a vacant faculty FTE line goes back to the School Deans so they can strategically decide at the local level how to spend that money. The EVC/Provost's office would keep a small amount of the money.

A Divisional Council member asked about the status of the campus's structural debt. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz replied that the debt was close to \$3 million last year. Two Schools are projecting significantly high deficits this year so she is working with them. The third School is operating within its budget. Zatz added that for a short amount of time, UCOP will give UC Merced money to pay for increased TA costs due to the higher salaries after the grad student strike. However, the campus needs to get more TAs onto grants in order to have long term success in funding graduate students.

A Divisional Council member stated that she has heard many faculty colleagues say that they are unwilling to apply for large grants due to the campus's financial system problems and lack of accurate grant management. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz suggested speaking to VCR Wilson.

She added that each School is receiving more staff (department managers and support staff) who will be helping faculty with purchasing. The Divisional Council member asked if there is any possibility of rehauling Oracle. Interim EVC/Provost replied that before Oracle, UC Merced was using UCLA's financial but was no longer allowed to do so. UC Merced and UC San Diego both adopted Oracle and UC San Diego also had major problems with it. The Divisional Council member informed Interim EVC/Provost Zatz that Divisional Council met on September 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss the ongoing issues and the Council decided to create a task force. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz offered to assist if Divisional Council would be willing to make it a Senate-Administration task force.

A Divisional Council member pointed out increased costs and inflation and inquired whether tuition fees would increase. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz replied that she has heard no discussion of that from the UC Regents. She suggested that Divisional Council consult with the Interim VC/CFO Schnier.

#### V. Consultation with VPDUE Frey

Discussion Item: Proposal to restructure the governance structures for the General Education and Honors Programs.

VPDUE Frey transmitted her proposal to Senate Executive Director Paul after today's meeting had already begun. She briefly summarized the proposal, which is to consolidate the General Education Executive Committee and the new Campuswide Honors Executive Committee into a new Division of Undergraduate Education Executive Committee (DUE Ex Comm). The DUE Ex Comm would provide faculty governance for both the General Education and Honors programs. The DUE Ex Comm would be co-chaired by the GE program faculty chair and the Honors program faculty chair. The membership would include a minimum of two senate faculty representatives per school, appointed by each school's Executive Committee.

CoC Chair Depaoli stated that CoC would like to review the proposed DUE Ex Comm membership.

VPDUE Frey acknowledged one potential issue which is Unit 18 lecturers would be ex-officio/non-voting members of the DUE Ex Comm. One idea, however, is to have them be voting members of a DUE Ex Comm subcommittee on General Education, since that curriculum is delivered by many Unit 18 lecturers.

CRE Chair Viney pointed out that this proposal should be treated as a proposed bylaw change which could necessitate a campus wide review and faculty vote. VPDUE Frey hopes to make the DUE Ex Comm effective immediately upon approval and hopes that will be in spring 2024.

**Action:** Senate Chair LiWang asked Divisional Council to review VPDUE Frey's proposal.

#### VI. Conducting Committee Business – Chair LiWang

- A. Fall Meeting Schedule, DivCo Membership, and DivCo Bylaws were linked on today's agenda.
- B. DivCo's Box site
- C. DivCo's Confidentiality

- D. Guide to Committee Membership & the Practice of Executive Session
- E. Consultation Guide (also refer to the 2010 memo from Academic Council to President Yudof)
- F. UCM Bylaws and Regulations
- G. Systemwide Bylaws and Regulations
- H. Systemwide Meetings Calendar
- I. Senate Digest (distributed to the Senate Faculty every Friday)
- J. Review Items (this web page will be updated regularly throughout the AY)
- K. Distribution of Work on Divisional Council

## **VII. SSHA Faculty and Instructor Losses – Chair LiWang**

In their memo, SSHA Department Chairs recommend that “DivCo conduct a survey of non-replaced lines across the university, in particular accounting for lines lost to administrative appointments, faculty departures, and canceled U18 contracts, in order to get a better sense of the scope of the problem and how to best address it.”

The memo was shared with CAPRA for discussion at their September 26 meeting. Divisional Council will revisit this issue at a future meeting.

A Divisional Council member from SSHA stated that many departments in SSHA are very concerned about faculty vacancies and the School is reaching a point where they may not be able to deliver the full undergraduate and graduate curriculum. FWF Chair Beaster-Jones suggested that Divisional Council intervene in Interim EVC/Provost Zatz’s plan that she mentioned in today’s meeting, which is to have vacant faculty FTE lines go back to the Deans. Having those vacant lines become part of the Deans’ budgets would be inconsistent with past practice.

Divisional Council members discussed what data they would like to see with regard to vacant faculty FTE lines. One member stated that she would like to see how many faculty members left the university in addition to how many have moved to positions in the administration. CAPRA Chair Mitchell pointed out that that data is not readily available and not aggregated across the university. He has attempted to obtain that data in the past and was unsuccessful. He added that last year, Divisional Council and the former EVC/Provost discussed a proposal whereby if a faculty member moved to a position in the administration, that faculty member’s department would receive funds to replace them. That proposal was never instituted and perhaps Divisional Council should bring it up to the administration again.

## **VIII. Senate Goals and Priorities for AY 23-24 - Chair LiWang and All**

Last year’s goals and priorities were linked on today’s agenda.

Senate Chair LiWang asked Divisional Council members to discuss their committee goals and suggest potential visitors to Divisional Council this year.

CoC Chair Depaoli stated that faculty assume that service does not count in their academic personnel reviews and are reluctant to serve on Senate committees. CAP Chair Malloy pointed out that per the APM, service is one of the criteria (along with research, teaching, and contributions to diversity) on which faculty are reviewed. Research is weighted heavily, but service is also taken into account. CAPRA Chair Mitchell stated that Senate service is heavy and can have a singular impact on a faculty member in a given academic personnel review. However, the APM does offer flexibility; for example, other UC campuses make more of an allowance for service activity.

Senate Chair LiWang suggested the goal of addressing faculty morale. FWAF Chair Beaster-Jones stated that a few years ago, UCFW discussed making revisions to the APM to include the principle of “achievement relative to opportunity”. He added that he would like FWAF to discuss the possible creation of a campus committee on family-friendly policies that would include staff, Senate faculty, non-Senate faculty, and students.

GC Chair Scheibner stated that GC will focus on issues related to graduate education including the 4+1 policy. Last semester, there were two surveys: one for graduate students (through the systemwide UC) and one for post docs on the impacts of the pandemic, UC Merced building closures, and Oracle. GC is reviewing the survey responses. GC Chair Scheibner suggested that Divisional Council should invite Dean of University Extension Annette Webb to a meeting.

CAP Chair Malloy stated that if the campus wants to improve faculty welfare, then the campus should improve the material conditions under which faculty work, e.g. more staffing and improvements to the financial systems.

**IX. DivCo Liaison on the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability (FACS) – Chair LiWang**

CRE Chair Viney suggested that instead of selecting a Divisional Council member to serve on FACS, a representative from FACS could be invited to a Divisional Council meeting to provide updates.

**Action:** Senate Chair LiWang asked Divisional Council members to contact her if they volunteer to serve on FACS.

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

Attest: Patti LiWang, Senate Chair