

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, March 25, 2024

Attendees: Chair Matt Hibbing, Vice Chair Kevin Mitchell, Michael Scheibner, Sarah Depaoli, Marcos Garcia-Ojeda, Christopher Viney, Kara McCloskey, Sean Malloy, Tao Ye, Alexander Petersen.

I. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz Updates

Interim EVC/Provost Zatz answered Divisional Council’s previous question about how the campus plans to utilize its portion of the \$7 million that UC President Drake is allocating to the campuses to support mental health for students, faculty, and staff, and to address Islamophobia in connection with the Middle East crisis. IEVC/P reported that VC/CDO Saenz has asked various units to submit proposals on how they plan to use these funds. CDO Saenz is still exploring ways to use these funds and will presumably keep the Senate leadership posted (either directly or through EDI). DivCo was informed that Academic Affairs submitted a plan and Associate Vice Provost Anna Song is taking the lead. In May, UC Merced will offer a workshop developed by the National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC), “The Art of Inclusive Communication¹.” AVP Song will also work with the NCRC to include the new systemwide anti-discrimination policy in the workshop. The NCRC will also match UC Merced’s budget and provide an additional \$25,000 to implement targeted workshops/trainings for faculty who manage and supervise personnel to prevent conflict from arising. Chair Hibbing asked IEVC/P Zatz to maintain communication with the Senate so faculty can have input on these workshops/trainings.

As this is her last Divisional Council consultation, Interim EVC/Provost Zatz thanked the Senate for being a good partner this year and expressed her praise for the various Senate-Administration task forces. She has heard from several faculty that their morale has improved. A Divisional Council member stated that faculty would appreciate hearing from the administration that there are many issues that still need to be fixed and that faculty will be involved in the solutions.

II. Chair’s Report – Matt Hibbing

A. Academic Council (March 12)

Academic Council voted against the UC Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites which previously underwent systemwide Senate review. Academic Council issued a letter asking the Regents to work collaboratively with the Senate. The Regents held a meeting and discussed a potential revised policy, but the Senate rejected the revised policy as it was too similar to the original version. It is likely that the revised policy will be issued for systemwide Senate review and will be discussed at the May meeting of the Regents which will be held at UC Merced.

B. Meeting with UC VP Haynes (March 12)

VP Haynes asked general questions about topical issues at UC Merced. Senate Chair Hibbing raised the issues of inadequate staffing, low faculty morale, and Oracle. The topic of the negotiated salary program (that the Senate reviewed last year) was brought up as possible mitigation.

¹ <https://ncrconline.com/mediation-conflict-resolution/training-services/available-workshops/art-inclusive-communication/>

C. Meeting with Chancellor Muñoz and Interim EVC/Provost Zatz (March 18)

- UC Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites. The Chancellor is aware of the issues.
- Senate Regulation 630 (residency requirement). The Chancellor is considering the pros and cons of fully online degrees and is aware of the potentially negative impact on UC Merced should other UC campuses implement online degree programs.

III. Consultation with Ed Klotzbier, Vice Chancellor, External Relations and Christopher Abrescy, UCM Creative Director

VC Klotzbier and Creative Director Abrescy shared with Divisional Council images of the new secondary bobcat the campus will adopt for marketing purposes. The bobcat image currently used by Athletics will remain. VC Klotzbier is consulting with various departments on campus to seek any input on the new images.

IV. Consent Calendar

- Today's Agenda
- March 11 Meeting Minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

V. Proposed Policy for Conflict of Interest with Course Material when Instructor is the Author – UGC Chair Viney

Linked on today's agenda were UGC's memo and the proposed policy. UGC Chair Viney summarized the proposed policy. Divisional Council members were supportive.

Action: Divisional Council voted to endorse the policy.

VI. UGC and GC Proposed Amendments to UCM Senate Regulations – UGC Chair Viney and GC Chair Scheibner

Linked on today's agenda were the proposed amendments and the joint UGC/GC memo.

- Senate Regulation I.1.E (Passed/Not Passed)
- Senate Regulation I.2.B (Dropping a Course)
- Senate Regulation III.1.A.d (Satisfactory Progress - P/NP)

UGC Chair Viney and GC Chair Scheibner summarized the proposed amendments. Divisional Council members had questions about Senate Regulation I.2.B (Dropping a Course), including whether the goal is to get students to take the same number of credits so that they do not inadvertently lose financial aid. Members were also concerned if struggling students added a course with a high number of contact hours. Registrar Webb stated that she is working with the Office of Financial Aid and other departments on campus on these issues and added that she anticipates increased demand for some courses. This policy will be challenging to implement as it represents a significant shift in how the campus currently operates.

Divisional Council members agreed that the proposed amendment should be modified to read “maintain full time status”.

Action: Divisional Council members voted to endorse the proposed amendments to Senate Regulation I.1.E (Passed/Not Passed) and Senate Regulation III.1.A.d (Satisfactory Progress - P/NP). Members agreed to send the proposed amendments to Senate Regulation I.2.B (Dropping a Course) back to UGC and CRE for edits and further consultation with the Registrar and other campus stakeholders.

VII. Proposed Amendments to CAP and RCAP Bylaws (Memberships) – CRE Chair Viney

The amendments are proposed in response to a CRE ruling issued in October 2023 regarding the interpretation of Senate Bylaw II.III.2.A (CAP Membership). The relevant correspondence was linked on today’s agenda.

Ruling:

The UCM Bylaw referenced above states that the membership of the Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP) consists of full professors (“[...] Members will be full professors.” The Bylaw does not explicitly state that full Teaching Professors are not eligible to serve on CAP. CRE interprets “full professors” as including “full Teaching Professors”. Without explicit Bylaw language regarding the membership of CAP, it is implicit that full Teaching Professors should be eligible to serve on CAP.

Linked on today’s agenda was CAP and RCAP’s proposed bylaw amendments as previously approved by CRE. CRE Chair Viney briefly summarized the proposed amendments. Divisional Council members were supportive.

Action: Divisional Council voted to endorse the proposed CAP bylaw amendments (SBL II.III.2.A) and the proposed RCAP bylaw amendments (SBL II.III.3.A). Both sets of proposed amendments will be voted on at the Spring 2024 Meeting of the Division.

VIII. Update on Core Facilities Survey Responses – CoR Chair Ye

Linked on today’s agenda was a draft summary prepared by CoR members of the results of the core facilities survey that was issued to faculty in fall 2023 by ORED in conjunction with CoR. CoR Chair Ye briefly discussed the summary. CoR will formally transmit the survey results summary and a memo of recommendations to Divisional Council in April with a request that the documents be forwarded to the administration.

IX. Other Business

Senate Vice Chair Mitchell provided updates from the TAS work groups.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm

Attest: Matt Hibbing, Senate Chair