

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, September 6, 2022

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

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair LiWang welcomed new and continuing DivCo members to the new academic year.

II. Consultation with EVC/Provost Camfield

EVC/Provost Camfield informed DivCo members that Vice Chancellor & Chief Operating Officer of Physical Operations, Planning & Development Dan Okoli is interested in conducting charrettes (working sessions with stakeholders) with campus constituents to hold focused discussions about how the physical space of the campus can meet their needs. These charrettes will help inform the campus about which buildings will be built next. The charrettes will be held in late October and will be broken into one and one-and-a-half hour blocks. Faculty members will be invited to attend. EVC/Provost Camfield asked the Council of Deans to provide names of faculty they would recommend to participate in the charrettes. He also offered to make a formal request to the Senate for additional faculty names. He wants to ensure that faculty voices are included in the process. A DivCo member asked EVC/Provost Camfield to share with DivCo the list of new buildings, as that will help the committee suggest names of affected faculty members who may wish to participate in the charrettes.

A DivCo member inquired whether local business and community groups will be invited to give input into the new decision-making process around the new campus buildings. EVC/Provost Camfield answered that he is not aware, but he will try to find the answer. Another DivCo member asked if staff can be invited to the charrettes and pointed out that there are issues in the 2020 buildings that are still unresolved. EVC/Provost Camfield agreed that staff should also be invited.

A DivCo member inquired whether the Senate should help mediate the process with affected parties on the proposed Gallo School. EVC/Provost Camfield responded that he would welcome the Senate’s assistance. He added that the presentation he and Interim VC Kurt Schnier gave at the annual shared governance retreat in August should have answered some questions about the financial viability of the campus and the critical need to reach enrollment targets. The degree to which the administration can continue to make this information clear, transparent, and accessible will help demonstrate that the administration is disciplined about allocating funding. The administration will work with department chairs on a shorter version of the EVC/Provost’s shared governance retreat presentation. The administration will also post data on a TBD website. EVC/Provost Camfield added that he is working with SSHA Dean Gilger on offering facilitation support to address larger questions in a more specific context. EVC/Provost Camfield will also work with the proposers of the Gallo School.

III. Chair’s Report – Patti LiWang

A. Fall Meetings

DivCo members agreed that fall semester meetings should be conducted in a hybrid style with both an in-person location and a Zoom option.

IV. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda

B. DivCo's Revised Conflict of Interest Policy

DivCo's Conflict of Interest Policy was revised during the summer. Members were asked to review the statement in preparation for its endorsement at today's meeting. DivCo members agreed that ultimately, there is no enforcement mechanisms for recusals and members should follow their conscience. A DivCo member requested a tracked changes version of the revised policy.

Action: The Senate Executive Director will include a tracked changes version of DivCo's Conflict of Interest policy on the next DivCo agenda. Members will be asked to review in advance in preparation for the discussion.

V. Conduct Committee Business – Chair LiWang

A. Fall Meeting Schedule, DivCo Membership, and DivCo Bylaws were hyperlinked on today's agenda.

B. DivCo's Box site

C. Committees' Annual Reports

D. Committee Confidentiality

E. Guide to Committee Membership & the Practice of Executive Session

F. Consultation Guide (also refer to the 2010 memo from Academic Council to President Yudof)

G. UCM Bylaws and Regulations

H. Systemwide Bylaws and Regulations

I. Systemwide Meetings Calendar

J. Senate Digest (distributed to DivCo and School Executive Committees every Friday)

K. Review Items

L. Do Your Part

M. UCM Senate Educational Continuity

N. Distribution of Work on Divisional Council

DivCo will assign 1-3 (depending on the nature of the item) lead reviewers for review item that DivCo will discuss this year. A DivCo member pointed out that certain significant review items in the last academic year had short and somewhat unreasonable review deadlines and DivCo found that very difficult to manage. The member suggested that DivCo try to push back in order to avoid that situation this year. Chair LiWang agreed to do that for campus review items but cautioned that DivCo may not have much flexibility in systemwide review item deadlines.

VI. Debrief Shared Governance Retreat – Chair LiWang and All

Chair LiWang asked DivCo members for their input on the shared governance retreat. A DivCo member asked how the Senate can avoid being a bottleneck with regard to review items while also trying to maintain a reasonable workload for the committee. A DivCo member raised the workload issue with respect to faculty members who draft proposals for the creation of new majors. The campus should offer resources to those faculty who are engaging in this entrepreneurial work, given that faculty have limited administrative support. Resources could include course releases or summer compensation.

A DivCo member pointed out that the shared governance retreat included discussion on peer-institution comparison, however, those peer institutions are older, and they likely do not have many majors that are spread across various departments which leads to governance issues and staff shortages.

Another DivCo member stated that there was not enough time for Senate committee chairs to discuss their priorities at the retreat and more time was given to the administration's priorities. Chair LiWang agreed and stated that she informed the administration that the shared governance retreat was scheduled before the first DivCo meeting which was going to be problematic. She suggested that next year's shared governance retreat include equal time for the discussion of Senate committee chairs' priorities.

Another DivCo member pointed out a general issue of mixed messages originating from the administration with respect to the campus budget. One message last year conveyed that the campus is falling short of its enrollment targets while another message last year implied a more positive outlook.

DivCo members had a brief discussion about which campus budget items CAPRA should have access to. Currently, CAPRA only reviews academic budget requests, not the budget requests of individual campus units that CAPRA may be able to knowledgeably assess, such as requests from the Senate Office. A DivCo member stated that Interim VC Schnier made it clear that he wants faculty's input to drive the campus's financial priorities so DivCo should invite him to a future meeting to continue this discussion. DivCo members agreed and also requested that VC Schnier provide updates on Oracle.

DivCo members then discussed issues the committee will likely discuss this year, including developments on GSRs and TAs and guidance on the language that is incorporated into syllabi. Systemwide guidance would be useful. Other issues DivCo members raised were updates on the new Medical Education/Public Health building, Merced's ANR status, the broad issue of administrative leadership on the building of the university, and a requested status update from VC Schnier on student debt collection.

Action: The following individuals will be invited to future DivCo meetings: new Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, new Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Strategy, Interim Vice Chancellor Schnier, and Vice Chancellor Okoli.

VII. Update from EDI Chair Menke – Anti-Racism Work Group (ARWG)

EDI Chair Menke summarized for DivCo that the Chancellor previously allocated \$100,000 to the Senate to combat anti-black racism. \$50,000 was allocated to a mini grants program and \$50,000 was allocated for the hiring of an external consultant to help the Senate conduct self-assessments. EDI Chair Menke reminded DivCo that per her presentation to the committee in spring 2022, the chairs of CAP, CAPRA, and CoC will be asked to conduct self-studies.

EDI Chair Menke explained that the self-studies will focus on the Senate committee leadership structure and will be aided by the external consultant who has already been hired. The goal is to have, by the end of this academic year, recommendations on combating racism within the Senate committee structure.

A few DivCo members asked for clarification on how to complete the self-studies as they were unaware of this request. EDI Chair Menke reiterated that she emailed DivCo last year about this task and she received minimal responses. A few DivCo members also expressed concern about the added workload.

Action: DivCo members to send their questions about the self-assessments and workload concerns to EDI Chair Menke and copy Senate Chair LiWang and Senate Executive Director Paul. EDI Chair Menke will be invited to the first CAPRA meeting on September 13.

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

<https://sustainability.ucmerced.edu/facs>

FACS meets on Wednesdays (3-4pm) on the following dates:

- September 21
- October 19
- November 16
- December 14

Chair LiWang asked for a volunteer to serve as a Senate FACS liaison as a replacement for former At-Large Member Justin Yeakel. The role of the liaison is to share updates on FACS activities with DivCo.

Action: The Senate Executive Director will seek a volunteer via email.

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

Attest: Patti LiWang, Senate Chair