

DIVISION COUNCIL
Merced Division of the Academic Senate
Annual Report 2014-2015

The Division Council (DivCo) held a total of seven meetings and conducted some business via email with respect to its duties as outlined in UC Merced's Bylaw I.IV.3. In addition, DivCo members met with CAPRA, Provost/EVC Peterson, Interim VPF Camfield, VC for BAS Services Reese, VP Feitelberg and Interim Librarian Barclay. Many of the Council's agenda items were delegated for preliminary review by the appropriate Senate Committees, followed by full Division Council review. The issues that DivCo considered this year are described briefly below.

Strategic Academic Focusing Initiative (SAFI)

DivCo (and CAPRA) discussed the SAFI throughout the academic year. Two joint DivCo/CAPRA meetings with the administration took place to address the FTE allocation process in light of this initiative. Mainly, the Council conveyed its concerns to the administrative leadership with the length of time the process took and the diminished engagement of the faculty due to uncertainties around the FTE process and implementation plan.

Provost/EVC Peterson met with the Senate regularly to report on the SAFI and the FTE process.

Project 2020

- Consultation with VC for Planning and Budget

On December 3, 2014, Vice Chancellor for Planning and Budget (VCPB) Feitelberg provided an update on Project 2020, specifically, plans for development and financing for the next phase of capital projects. The goal of the next phase is to create a mixed use learning environment with the ability to adapt to periodical change, reduce liability and transfer a portion of building maintenance obligations. It was reported that the campus is at a point where the academic themes derived from the strategic focusing exercise could be used to solicit additional information/qualifications from firms submitting proposals to implement the project. The structure of the project differs from the traditional process due to UCM's capacity constraints. The proposed public private partnership will allow the university to issue a combination of debt and commitment payments, maintain the ownership of the land, and minimize maintenance cost.

- Faculty input into Project 2020

In its 3/26/15 memo to the Administration, the Division Council expressed concerns about the lack of faculty input in the process and requested that the Senate be provided with a version of the relevant parts of the draft RFP, those related to academic space in particular, to enable the faculty to comment and suggest changes before the final document is sent to the development teams.

Space and Parking

DivCo discussed space concerns and suggested providing the Administration with general principles, specific recommendations. CAPRA drafted a set of Space Principles. Next year, DivCo will pursue the establishment of a space committee with faculty representation. Chair Sun conveyed these concerns to the Chancellor and the Provost during their monthly meetings.

DivCo considered campus parking concerns that stemmed from the system used to renew permits. VCBAS Reese and Interim VPF Camfield attended the October 8 and November 5 DivCo meetings respectively, to discuss these concerns related to priority issuance of permits, communication, and explore the possibility of implementing an automatic renewal system. At the November 5 meeting, Senate Chair Sun requested that FWDAF draft procedures pertaining to the renewal of parking permits. FWDAF provided recommendations to VPF Camfield and DivCo in December 2014. The automatic renewal system is now implemented.

Program Review

Last year's changes to the program review process resulted in revisions to the program review policies and the establishment of the Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC) as a replacement for SACAP and PRC. The goal was to better integrate the senate and administrative periodic review processes. DivCo discussed staff workload issues for both undergraduate and graduate program review needs. Up until February 2015, support for all program review activities was provided by one Senate staff member.

DivCo reviewed, approved and/or made recommendations on the following items:

- Endorsed the proposal to establish a Senate Administration IT Advisory Council (10/20)
- Approved a policy for the Review Process for Research Units (8/22)
- Approved a Conflict of Interest Policy proposed by Graduate Council (10/20)
- Endorsed the SSHA/UGC request to suspend the Appraisal Form (10/20)
- Endorsed the proposal for compensation of the General Education Subcommittee Chair (10/17)
- Commented on the Undergraduate Chairs Pilot Program (Dec. 2014)
- Endorsed revisions to the Medical Education Task Force charge and membership (1/30/15)
- Endorsed the proposal to split the FWDAF committee into two committees: the Faculty Welfare, Academic Freedom committee and the Diversity and Equity committee.
- Endorsed the COR proposal to establish a permanent Library and Scholarly Communication committee (LASC)
- Endorsed the Space Principles proposed by CAPRA
- Responded to the Provost's request for representatives on the WSCUC Steering Committee
- Reviewed the Public Health CCGA proposal
- Endorsed proposed revisions to the UCM Bylaws to include the newly formed Library and Scholarly Communication, the Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom and the Diversity and Equity committees
- Endorsed UGC's recommendation to establish a Community and Research Service Minor (3/2)
- Made recommendations to the administration on the revisions to the Policy for Establishment/Revisions of Academic Programs (3/2). As a result, a joint Administrative/Senate working group was established and charged with revising the undergraduate and graduate policies
- Endorsed CRE's recommendation to remove some language in the Bylaws that restricted ORU/MRU Directors from participating on Senate committees
- Opined on the proposed policy for the Review of ORUs proposed by VC Traina (3/11)

- Endorsed the GC's substantive revisions to the procedures for submitting proposals for Graduate Emphasis Areas and Graduate Programs (3/23)
- Provided comments to Interim VPF Camfield on revisions to the MAPP – L(P)SOE Titles (5/4)
- Made recommendations to the SSHA Dean on the establishment of a GASP major effective Fall 2016 – the proposal is undergoing revisions (5/6)
- Commented on the draft version of UC Merced's Review under the WSCUC Standards (5/19)
- Endorsed the Economics CCGA proposal (6/12)
- Provided comments to the Director of Compliance on the Draft UCM Diversity Statement (6/15)
- Endorsed the establishment of the UCM Presidential Chair in Humanities (6/25)
- Provided comments to the Provost/EVC on the COACHE report and on shared governance, in the context of the SAF initiative (6/30)

DivCo also opined on the following systemwide items:

- Amendment to Senate Regulation 682
- APM 133-210-220-760
- Senate Doctoral Student Support
- New UC Policy on Open Access
- APM 080 and 330
- Guidelines for Equity AFS
- Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence
- Senate Bylaw 182
- APM 360 and 210-4
- APM 133-17-g-j, Limitation on Total Period of Service with Certain Academic Titles
- Guidelines on Accepting and Managing Equity in Return for Access to University Facilities and/or Services
- APM 210-1-d

Respectfully Submitted:

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