

Division Council
Merced Division of the Academic Senate
Annual Report 2012-2013

The Division Council (DivCo) held a total of 16 regularly scheduled two-hour, in-person meetings and conducted some business via email with respect to its duties as outlined in UC Merced's Senate [Bylaw I.IV.3](#). In addition the Council held a preliminary meeting to establish goals for the year, as well as meeting with Vice Chancellor for Planning and Budget, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education, Vice Provost for Faculty, and Vice Provost/Dean of Graduate Education Candidates.

2012-2013 Accomplishments

The unofficial theme of DivCo this year was improving communication with faculty. Issues and concerns falling under this theme include: Senate monthly newsletter, Senate Website, and faculty participation.

At the beginning of the 2012-2013 academic year, DivCo held a planning meeting and identified three issues that were priorities for the upcoming year:

- **Campus Challenges:** To have robust conversations about the challenges facing the campus.
- **Academic Mission:** To become a full partner with the Chancellor about how to direct the academic mission.
- **Shared Governance:** Promote shared governance at all levels of the campus.

2012-2013 List of Activities

The following summarizes the Division Council's activities and actions for 2012-2013. Please refer to the Division Council approved [minutes](#) and newsletters for details.

DivCo made recommendations to the Administration on the following items:

- Faculty Leadership Structure for SNS, SSHA and SOE- DivCo sent a memo to the School Deans and SNS Unit Leads requesting the completion of elections for Chair and Executive Committee members no later than September 1, 2012.
- Coordination of School/Senate Business-DivCo sent a memo to School Deans requesting a staff member who will be responsible for coordinating communications and activities between the Senate and Schools.
- Revised MAPP- DivCo provided Acting Executive Vice Chancellor and Vice Provost of Academic Personnel with comments on proposed revisions from Senate members and DivCo.
- UC Merced Joint Senate-Administration Library Working Group-DivCo worked with Library staff to create the working group charge and membership.
- Long-Range Enrollment Plan- DivCo conducted a poll of graduate groups for revised graduate student enrollment projections, and provided comments on the draft text emphasizing the need to balance growth in undergraduate, graduate, faculty, and staff populations.
- Long-Range Development Plan- DivCo supported the proposed amendments to create mixed use areas that would enable more flexibility in the construction of campus buildings.
- Joint Senate-Administration Salary Equity Study Committee-In conjunction with the Faculty Welfare committee, DivCO worked to establish committee charge and membership.

- Joint Senate-Administration Working Group, Academic Space Planning for Project 2020-DivCo worked with the Provost/EVC and Chancellor to develop the charge and membership for a joint Senate-Administration working group responsible for gathering and synthesizing information from academic units, graduate groups, and Schools on space needs and planning in advance of strategic academic planning in Fall 2013.
- Composite Benefit Rates—In its memo to the Chancellor and Provost/EVC, DivCo strongly opposed the recommendation from the UCOP Steering Committee on Composite Benefit Rates to charge faculty summer salaries from grants and contracts the same benefit rate as that for full academic year salaries.
- Role of School Executive Committees and Senate Rights and Responsibilities in Schools- DivCo sent a memo to SSHA Executive Committee pointing out the primary areas of Senate responsibility: Academic degree programs and curriculum, Academic Personnel, and advising the administration on Budget and Resource Allocation.

DivCo reviewed and responded to the following campus items:

- LES Bylaw 55 Unit Proposal-endorsed the proposal to establish a Life and Environmental Sciences (LES) Bylaw 55 Unit.
- Political Science and Sociology Bylaw 55 Unit Proposal- sent memo to Provost/EVC Peterson endorsing the proposals and recommending approval by the administration
- CCGA Proposals-sent memos to Provost/EVC Peterson endorsing the revised Interdisciplinary Humanities CCGA Proposal, new Political Sciences CCGA Proposal, and new Applied Math CCGA Proposal.
- Establishment of English and Spanish Undergraduate Majors-endorsed proposal to establish these two majors and recommended the School articulate an implementation plan and timeline for the discontinuance of the Literature and Cultures major.
- WASC Revised Handbook- forwarded standing committee and DivCo's comments expressing concerns and encouraging WASC to implement accreditation policies that do not place additional strain on already over-burdened faculty and staff.
- WASC Graduate Student Success Template-endorsed a set of materials related to evaluating student success at the graduate level.
- Learning Management Systems-forwarded memo endorsing IT's budget proposal for the replacement of UCMCROPS (SAKAI) with a new Learning Management System (CANVAS).
- Office of Assessment-forwarded memo endorsing a new Senior Administrative Analyst for the Office of Assessment.
- Joint Program Review Committee- forwarded memo to UGC and GRC Chairs establishing a Joint-Undergraduate-Graduate Program Review Committee.
- Revised UC Merced Assessment Principles-forwarded memo to SACAP Co- Chair's endorsing the assessment principles which will be useful as a set of values to guide the campus' philosophy and practices regarding assessment, and to communicate them to external audiences.

DivCo opined on the following systemwide items:

- Rebenching Report-forwarded standing committee and DivCo responses supporting the core principles of rebenching in the report and agreeing that student funding across the system should be equalized and transparent.
- Revisions of APM 700- forwarded standing committee and DivCo comments supporting revisions.

- APM Section 430, Visiting Scholars and Other Visitors- reviewed and had no additional comments.
- Open Access Policy-forwarded standing committee and DivCo's comments supporting the intention of the policy in making university-based research openly available to all, and in potentially affecting changes in commercial publishing.
- BOARS Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 478- forwarded committee comments with no objections but agreed that the changes will have little effect on students transferring into our science and engineering programs.
- Financial Aid Funding Policies-forwarded DivCo's memo favoring Option A, which would direct more aid to lower income students.
- APM 015-reviewed and had no additional comments.

DivCo proposed substantive revisions to the UCM Bylaws

- Graduate and Research Council (GRC) to be split into two new standing committees: Graduate Council and Committee on Research beginning Ay13-14
- Expanded the duties of the Faculty Welfare Committee and renamed as the Committee on Faculty Welfare Diversity and Academic Freedom.
- Changed the membership of CAPRA, removing Vice Chairs of GRC/UGC, and adding representatives from Schools.
- Expanded the membership of Division Council to include the chairs of the two split GRC committees (Graduate Council/Research), and included the chair of Faculty Welfare, Diversity, and Academic Freedom.
- Added an additional member to the Undergraduate Council.

2012-2013 List of Guests

- Chancellor Dorothy Leland, September 27, 2012, November 1, 2012
- Laura Martin, Coordinator of Institutional Assessment, October 18, 2012
- Interim EVC Sam Traina, November 1, 2012
- Vice Chancellor for Administration Mary Miller, December 6, 2012
- Michael Truong, LMS Implementation Task Force, February 13, 2013
- Provost/EVC Peterson, January 30, 2013, April 26, 2013, May 8, 2013
- Systemwide Provost Aimee Dorr, March 18, 2013
- Lacey Kiriakou, Director of Federal Relations, Office of Government Relations, October 18, 2012

Senate Office

The Academic Senate office workload continues to increase with the ongoing responses to the campus requirements for Program Review as well as WASC requirements. With the maturing of the Division Council, the growth of the faculty, and the growing needs of Program Review, the Senate will be adding two new standing committees to its roster: the Committee on Research (COR) and the Joint Undergraduate/Graduate Program Review Committee (PRC).

The Senate office hired a new Executive Director Dejeuné Shelton and Senate Senior Analyst Simrin Takhar.

DivCo reviewed the AY12-13 Senate Office budget and reviewed and approved the Senate Office budget request for AY13-14

UCM Faculty

Peggy O'Day, Chair (SNS)
Ignacio López-Calvo, Vice Chair (SSHA)
Susan Amussen, CAPRA Chair (SSHA)
Cristián Ricci, UGC Chair (SSHA)
Valerie Leppert, GRC Chair (SOE)
Ajay Gopinathan, CoC Chair (SNS)
Dave Kelley, CAP Vice Chair (SNS)
Rick Dale, Parliamentarian & CRE Chair (SSHA)
Wolfgang Rogge, At-Large Member (SOE)
Paul Maglio, At-Large Member (SOE)

Senate Staff

Dejeuné Shelton, Executive Director
Fatima Paul, Assistant Director
Simrin Takhar, Senior Analyst
Mayra Chavez-Franco, Senate Analyst