

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Attendees: Chair Tom Hansford, Vice Chair Robin DeLugan, Christopher Viney, Hrant Hratchian (for LeRoy Westerling), Jay Sharping, Michael Scheibner, Linda Hirst, Erin Hestir, Josué Medellín-Azuara (zoom), Patti LiWang, Nella Van Dyke, Michael Dawson, Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, and David Jennings (for Carolin Frank).

I. Consultation with EVC/Provost Camfield

EVC/Provost Camfield updated Divisional Council (DivCo) members on the following:

- A. The Department of Education completed its audit with regard to attendance of students who receive federal financial aid. Since it is not UC policy to track attendance, UC Merced faculty worked diligently to track student attendance to comply with the audit. EVC/Provost Camfield thanked faculty for their efforts. UC Merced has had to return only a small amount of aid to the federal government (another UC campus had to return a considerable amount).

EVC/Provost Camfield added that the campus is trying to develop an easy solution for faculty members to track student attendance, such as posting a simple but required assignment on Cat Courses for the students to complete to demonstrate they not only attended the course, but actively engaged in the curriculum. However, he acknowledged that not all UC Merced faculty use Cat Courses, so mandating the use of Cat Courses would be a challenge. A DivCo member inquired about alternative census mechanisms like requiring students to swipe their Cat Cards as they enter classrooms. It was pointed out that each classroom would require a card swiping device which may not be feasible.

Another DivCo member asked how to capture attendance when students drop the course. Faculty see those students' names on the roster at the beginning of the term but are no longer able to see their names after they drop the course. EVC/Provost Camfield replied that the administration is able to access the full student roster, including those that dropped the course, so the faculty do not have to be concerned.

- B. EVC/Provost Camfield reiterated the point he made in a previous DivCo meeting about the UC needing to prepare itself for the Supreme Court to potentially rescind DACA. He thanked UGC for its proactive work on how to ensure our affected students are able to complete their degrees. He pointed out that the future degree completion policy has to be available to all students who have left or may leave the University for various reasons, not only students affected by DACA. UC Merced has applied to UCOP for funds to help the campus institute such a policy. The UGC Chair emphasized that approval of such a policy should go through the proper Senate channels. EVC/Provost Camfield assured faculty that appropriate consultation with the Senate will occur; the campus had to move quickly in applying for the UCOP funds in order to be prepared for DACA to be rescinded. EVC/Provost Camfield also pointed out that it would not be a new degree,

rather, the policy applies to students who are finishing the programs in which they are currently enrolled. The administration will be sharing a draft proposal for Senate review in the near future.

II. Chair's Updates

Chair Hansford updated Division Council members on the following:

- A. Deans' Council (February 4 and 18, 2020)
Chair Hansford reported that there were no updates relevant to Division Council.
- B. Meeting with EVC/Provost Camfield (February 10, 2020)
Chair Hansford reported that in response to the joint memo from GC and FWAF on faculty and graduate student conflicts, the EVC/Provost is formulating a work group.
- C. Meeting of the Assembly of the Academic Senate (February 12, 2020)
 - i. The Assembly of the Academic Senate formally approved additional recommendations related to Area D (Laboratory Science) freshman admission requirement. Two years of science will still be required and three years recommended; however, science will be more generally defined. This is an issue of equity and access, as some high schools do not have the capacity or resources to offer the required three years of science.
 - ii. No progress has been made in the negotiations between Unit 18 lecturers and the UC administration.
 - iii. The Academic Advisory Committee to the UC President Search committee will begin vetting candidates for the Search Committee. UC Merced faculty member Sean Malloy (SSHA), who is the chair of UCPB, serves on the Advisory Committee. The Search Committee is comprised of Regents but no faculty. The absence of faculty consultation has caused consternation. Assembly members believe that the systemwide Senate Chair should serve on the Search Committee given past precedence. The Regents are scheduled to announce the new UC President at the May Regents meeting.
 - iv. As a result of the wildcat strike, a subset of UC Santa Cruz TAs are still refusing to post student grades from the fall 2019 term. However, they are making exceptions for students who would face hardships and must receive their grades. TAs are still deadlocked with the UC Santa Cruz administration over the cost of living. UC President Napolitano stated that she will honor the collective bargaining agreement that is currently in place and will not reopen labor negotiations.

III. Consent Calendar

- A. The Agenda
- B. February 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Action: Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Proposals from Standing Senate Committees

- A. Faculty Retention Feasibility Assessment
This proposal was discussed at the December 4 Division Council meeting. In response to Council's comments, D&E has presented a revised proposal that was made available for Council's review prior to this meeting.

D&E Chair Berhe summarized the revised proposal. Division Council members had no additional comments. A motion was made and seconded to endorse the revised document and transmit to the EVC/Provost. The motion passed unanimously (the Secretary/Parliamentarian abstained).

Action: The proposal was transmitted to EVC/Provost Camfield on February 21, 2020.

B. Proposal to Add a Teaching Professor to CAP's Membership – FWAF Vice Chair Jennings

Background: The 2018 revisions to the APM concerning the Teaching Professor series prompted discussions among FWAF members of the addition of a Teaching Professor to the CAP membership on an ad hoc basis to aid in the review of these personnel cases.

Prior to this meeting, FWAF's proposal was made available for Division Council's review.

FWAF Vice Chair David Jennings, who attended the meeting in place of FWAF Chair Frank, summarized FWAF's proposal and pointed out that UC Irvine's CAP includes a Teaching Professor.

The CAP Chair raised a concern about the perception that CAP is not qualified to appropriately assess a Teaching Professor's performance. She also pointed out that per Senate Bylaw 55, departments determine the voting rights of members and it is therefore at the departments' discretion if they want to extend voting rights.

Two Division Council members suggested that it would be beneficial if departments would include Teaching Professors on departmental review committees in order to ensure that Teaching Professors' records were accurately and fairly presented before the cases reach higher levels of review.

FWAF Vice Chair Jennings clarified that FWAF's proposal is still in the nascent stages, and a more refined proposal will undergo full Senate review. He emphasized that today's discussion is merely a starting point. He stated that the Merced Division Bylaws do not require representation across Schools in terms of CAP membership. CoC Chair Hirst stated that CoC makes every effort to populate CAP with the appropriate range of discipline expertise. The CAP Chair added that when CAP believes it lacks the expertise to review a particular case, the committee asks the EVC/Provost to empanel an ad hoc committee of experts in the candidate's field.

A Division Council member asked why Teaching Professors cannot serve on CAP if they are Senate faculty. The CoC Chair repeated the aforementioned statement about department voting procedures. In response to FWAF Vice Chair Jennings' inquiry, it was confirmed that per Merced Division Bylaws, only Full Professors may serve on CAP. Another Division Council member stated the more significant need on CAP is appropriate discipline expertise rather than representation.

A Division Council member suggested that one unintended consequence of adding a Teaching Professor to CAP is that a department would be deprived of that Teaching Professor's participation in faculty cases at the departmental level, given that CAP members can participate and vote on a faculty case either at the CAP level or at the departmental level, but not both.

Action: FWAf will revise its proposal and re-submit to Division Council.

V. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

UGC Chair Sharping and GC Vice Chair Hratchian summarized the discussions of this topic in their respective committees.

At its February 14 meeting, UGC discussed potential approaches for degree completion in the event that students are deported. They are summarized below.

Immediate activities

1. Hold further discussions UGC and GC did not have sufficient time to discuss the matter.
2. Articulate a commitment to DACA students wherein the University of California will help them to complete their degrees.
3. Immediately form a study group (empower the Undocumented Students Working Group) to clarify the circumstances in which deported students will find themselves.
4. Encourage systemwide efforts.
5. Train everybody about their rights and obligations

Reduce stress for students who are no longer covered by DACA but have not been deported

1. Allowances for missing class in the event that they fear coming to campus.
2. Educational leave designation for undocumented students.
3. Offer legal services

Reduce stress in the event that students are deported

1. Assign current term grades based on work to date. Students should either be able to receive grades based on their current course performance (after completion of the 9th week), allow extended incomplete grades, or else have the current term removed from their records.
2. Create an extended educational leave designation for deported DACA students. Students should be able to easily obtain educational leave that does not blemish their academic record.
3. Guarantee readmission upon return.
4. Cancel appropriate financial obligations. Students should not be charged for a term that they were not able to complete as a result of deportation.
5. Offer legal services

Work with these students to resume their studies

1. Personal liaison. Identify a personal university contact from a list of volunteers whose role is to contact students and provide emotional support, direct them to services, and eventually create a plan for resuming their education. Liaisons would need training and support of their own.
2. Leverage UCEAP study and articulation connections.
3. Create advising guidelines according to standing (freshman, sophomore, graduate student, etc.)

4. Waive campus residency requirements so that students may complete their degrees away from campus.
5. Create faculty teaching teams who will travel for extended periods in order to deliver courses and foster degree completion for students in the country(ies) where they have relocated.
6. Extend online course options, such as ILTI courses, and create online educational portal for use by deported students in completing their degree work.
7. Designate TEAL resources for course/degree completion.
8. Create a degree with course requirement flexibility so that students may finish their work elsewhere and still receive a UC degree.

GC Vice Chair Hratchian reported that GC is not concerned about graduate students completing necessary work after they advance to candidacy, but are reluctant to waive the residency requirement. He emphasized that the future policy has to be broad enough to be used by all students, not just those affected by DACA. He added that GC was in favor of the idea of graduate students completing joint degree programs with partner institutions which would also benefit the UC in terms of forging new collaborations. Affected students could also utilize UC Study Abroad programs; however, that is predicated on Study Abroad faculty having the appropriate research expertise as the graduate student. GC also discussed the possibility of offering expedited Master's degrees for students facing imminent deportation. GC Vice Chair Hratchian asked Division Council members to share widely the message sent on Wednesday, February 19 by VPDGE Zatz [regarding suggested actions](#) from the Presidents' Alliance on Immigration and Higher Education if DACA is rescinded.

UGC Chair Sharping stated that he received input from the Office of the Registrar on utilizing current policies on leaves. GC Vice Chair Hratchian also suggested that Division Council consult with Legal Counsel on what actions the UC can take for affected students.

Action: UGC and GC will continue their collaborative discussions. Both committee Chairs will report to Division Council in four weeks on whether existing UC policies can be used to help affected students.

VI. Other Business

Discussion: Senate-as-information-distributor to Senate Faculty.

Chair Hansford shared with Division Council members that the Senate Office is sometimes asked to send messages/announcements on behalf of Senate faculty and/or administrators using the Senate Office's faculty or Division list serve. He asked members for share their thoughts on this topic.

Council members responded that sending messages on behalf of both Senate faculty and administrators is not desirable, as many faculty will begin to ignore such emails from the Senate Office. They prefer that the Senate Office only send messages and announcements pertaining to Senate business, e.g. Senate Elections.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Attest: Tom Hansford, Senate Chair