

Division Council (DivCo)
Minutes of Meeting
October 20, 2016

Pursuant to call, the Division Council met at 12:00 p.m. on October 20, 2016 in Room 232 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Susan Amussen presiding.

Present: Kurt Schnier, Ramesh Balasubramaniam, Mukesh Singhal, Anne Zanzucchi, and David Kelley. Virginia Adán-Lifante represented the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom, Wei-Chun Chin, the Committee for Diversity and Equity, and Ramen Saha, the Committee on Research.

I. Chair's Report and Announcements—*Chair Amussen*

A. Meeting with Chancellor and Provost/EVC (10/10)

The Chair and Vice Chair raised the value of a mid-career review for deans. The idea was positively received. Ongoing revisions to the General Education program were also discussed.

B. Extended Cabinet Meeting (10/12)

The Chair reported that Workforce Planning was the main topic of discussion, with the Chancellor releasing 14 new staff positions. Seven went to the Provost, who now faces the difficult challenge of allotting them across a large number of units each with considerable need. As shared by the Provost during DivCo's consultation (item II of the agenda), one of the seven will go to the new faculty concierge position. The Division of Business and Administrative Services received three; all were mandated positions. The Division of Research and Economic Development received two as did the Division of Student Affairs. Discussion also focused on functions that need to remain in the schools versus those that might be supported centrally.

C. Lunch with Regent Pérez (10/13)

The Vice Chair reported that the meeting went well. Discussion focused on a number of topics including a medical school, the impact of the state's proposition system on higher education funding, particularly during recessions, and the need for the UC system to more clearly distinguish itself from the CSU system in terms of its contributions to educating the state's students. There is a perception that CSU's contribute to student education at higher rates than the UC because of the system's emphasis on teaching relative to research. It is important that the UC more clearly communicate the value of the UC's research activities to stakeholders. The Chair also noted the importance of emphasizing the value of a research university education for California's students.

D. Design-Review Process for 2020 Plans

The Chair reported that the review process for 2A building is underway. The intention is to develop a group of faculty from which reviewers, appropriate to a given building and/or space, can self-identify in order to ensure the plans are informed by potential users of the space. Plans for building 2B are expected to arrive in January. It was confirmed that attendees can take plans back to their units with the understanding that the comment period is highly constrained. The Chair emphasized that feedback should be focused on building/space operation and function.

II. Consent Calendar

A. The agenda was approved as presented.

B. The minutes of the [September 22, 2016](#) and the [October 6, 2016](#) meetings were approved as presented.

III. Consultation with the Provost Peterson.

The Provost outlined three priorities:

- **On-schedule completion of the 2020 buildings.** Designs for the first research building are currently under review. Plans for the second will be reviewed in January. Ensuring that all faculty have the opportunity to comment, should they desire to, is a high priority. The first research building includes approximately 80

offices for faculty and post-docs and space for 300 graduate students. Available office and research space will be more than doubled by the second research building, which is larger.

- **Delivery of recommendations from the Working Group on School Administrative Structure.** Formally established and charged by the Provost and Senate Chair, the group's report is expected in mid-November. Faculty representatives to the group were appointed by school executive committees. The group will want to gather input from the chairs of other faculty groups within the schools.
- **Articulate next steps for the faculty hiring plan, with the intention of having an agreed upon hiring plan for AY 2017-18 in place early in spring semester.** The Provost accepted the Chair's counsel in asking CAPRA to address this need, rather than establish a separate working group chaired by Vice Provost for the Faculty, and looks forward to the upcoming meeting with CAPRA to understand its progress. The Provost emphasized the importance of completing this work in a timely fashion and that CAPRA's analysis be informed by input from faculty with a range of perspectives on hiring strategies. The Chair shared that CAPRA's draft proposal will be the topic of the discussion at the Meeting of the Division in November.

The Provost also described the upcoming Academic Leadership Retreat scheduled for November 6-8. It will focus primarily on budget structures, policy and practice, in light of the constraints imposed by the state, OP, and the campus. Attendees include the Senate Chair and Vice Chair and members of Deans Council. The Provost and the Vice Chancellor of Planning and Budget from UC Riverside will attend to provide an example of how one campus handles carry forward, salary recovery, sharing indirect costs, etc.

The Provost also highlighted his interest open, frank, productive conversations that honor the diverse perspectives held by faculty and administrators as we work to address common concerns and challenges. He noted this will be essential to successfully navigating the next four to 10 years, which, aside from the Chancellor's commitment to reach 340-50 faculty FTE, will involve evaluating tradeoffs in where, how, and when to allocate resources. Toward this end, the Chair highlighted the importance of a campus-wide understanding of our budget context, and suggested that the Chancellor, Provost, and VCPB offer a budget presentation for the entire campus this spring. Members noted that the faculty will want to understand the assumptions that underpin the budget model, and that designing planning and communication processes to engage the appropriate stakeholders at the appropriate time(s) is important, a point with which the Provost agreed. Another member noted the importance of "lots" of communication to promote dissemination, as communication channels are not always efficient. The Chair highlighted the importance of differentiating between an information and consultation-oriented approach to engaging the Senate and the faculty more broadly.

Upcoming discussions with the Provost will focus on the faculty hiring plan.

IV. FWAF Memo – Virginia Adán-Lifante

Members discussed the issues underpinning FWAF's request that Division Council review, endorse, and forward to Chancellor Leland, the memo from a group of concerned UC Merced faculty regarding the actions of President Napolitano, the UC Office of the President, and the UC Chancellors in regard to the American Anthropological Association's resolution to boycott Israeli academic institutions. Member concerns included the precedent established by sending a memo purporting to offer the opinion of the UC without consultation with the faculty. A member reported that actions similar to that proposed are being taken on other campuses. Members unanimously endorsed FWAF's request.

Action: The Chair will forward the memo from a group of concerned faculty to the Chancellor.

V. PROC Membership – Chair Amussen

Membership unanimously endorsed Chair Amussen's proposal that the Vice Chair of Division Council, as co-chair of PROC and a member of CAPRA, represent both Division Council and CAPRA to PROC. This step will reduce the number of Senate representatives needed for PROC by one individual, while maintaining equal Senate and administration representation on PROC at seven each. The Chair also suggested that the Senate further address the issue of PROC membership this coming spring in light of the need to ensure that the processes PROC facilitates benefit from the institutional memory of all its members, not just those with administrative appointments. Toward that end, in spring 2017, the Senate intends to form a working group, consisting of current and past Senate representatives to PROC, to consider possible models for Senate faculty representation to PROC.

Action: The Chair will communicate to PROC Division Council's recommendation for revising Senate membership.

VI. Committee Chairs' Reports:

The meeting period concluded before it was possible to complete chair reports for all committees. CoC reported that a new member has joined COR and a member has been identified for the spring term to replace a member who will be on sabbatical. A new UGC and GESC member has been approved, as well as a vice chair for CAP. CoC declined to provide nominees for system-level committees, given the need for committee members at UC Merced. Terms of service and continuity were briefly discussed and the Vice Chair requested that data describing appointment terms for other campuses be gathered.

Action: Analysts will gather information describing terms of service for other campuses.

Informational Item:

- [Undergraduate Admissions Fall 2016 Annual Report](#)

Attest: Susan Amussen, Chair