

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
October 9, 2017

Pursuant to call, the Divisional Council met at 10:00 a.m. on October 9, 2017 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Susan Amussen presiding.

Present: Kurt Schnier, Wei-Chun Chin, Mike Dawson, Teamrat Ghezzehei, Tom Hansford, Shawn Newsam, Lin Tian, and Anne Zanzucchi. Sean Malloy and Mukesh Singhal participated by telephone. CoR was represented by Vice Chair Roummel Marcia.

I. Chair's Report & Announcements

A. Academic Council (9/27)

Chair Amussen reported that Academic Council discussed the university's commitment to retirement health benefits and the university's need to discuss pending changes with the UC community broadly. Academic Council also discussed the system's response to Assembly Bill 97, which funded the Office of the President (OP) separately from the university and required UC to fund an additional 1,500 undergraduate students from the OP's budget. Regarding the latter, Academic Council sent to President Napolitano a set of principles to guide reprioritization of the OP's budget as guided by the system's mission of teaching, research, and service. Discussion is ongoing regarding revisions to the LSOE series in the APM.

B. Meetings with Provost (10/2, 10/9)

Chair Amussen reported that she and Vice Chair Schnier meet weekly with the Provost. The Provost is currently focused on space planning as the first set of 2020 buildings will open this coming fall. The Chair and Vice Chair raised the need for campus policy to guide the review and, as necessary, sunset of programs charging Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition. They also encouraged using Gallo funds to support implementation of the MIST PDST proposal.

C. Academic Planning Work Group (9/29, 10/3)

Chair Amussen reported that a letter and a basic template of questions to be addressed to support academic planning will be sent to Undergraduate Chairs, Graduate Chairs, and Bylaw Chairs. The work group intends to make the planning process as transparent as possible, including by scheduling public discussions of program proposals.

D. Budget Working Group (10/6)

Vice Chair Schnier reported that a Deloitte consultant presented on instructional budgeting. Next, the group will review instructional budget models from across the system. The group recognizes that instructional budgets must be sensitive to how teaching is organized in each school.

II. Consent Calendar

The agenda was approved as presented.

III. 2020 Update - *Richard Cummings, Director, Strategic Communications*

Director Cummings provided an overview of the progress with the 2020 project, the largest higher education expansion of its type currently being undertaken in North America. The campus is constructing 13 buildings simultaneously, with approximately 400 constructor workers on site every day. Monthly photographs of the project's progress are posted on the 2020 project website, allowing the community to track the project's development. The delivery schedule is phased so that the bulk of buildings (60%) will be delivered in 2020. Although the first buildings will open in 2018, in the next few months a new parking lot will open and traffic lights will be installed at the intersection of Bellevue and North Lake roads. After the holiday break,

construction will begin on the recreation fields and wellness center. The first three buildings include the 600 seat dining facility and two residence halls. The residence halls will have retail and classroom space on the ground floors, with residence space above. They will also overlook Little Lake, which will be restored. The second delivery phase consists of two laboratory buildings. The final delivery phase includes more student housing, a transit center, a wellness center, conference center, recreational fields, a competition swimming pool, and tennis courts.

The Director also reported that the Downtown Center is nearing completion. It will house 300 Merced staff who will move there in January 2018. A new transportation tax passed over the summer will support completion of the campus parkway from 99 to Yosemite Avenue. The tax will also provide \$100 million to extend the Altamont commuter express train from Stockton to downtown Merced.

IV. Master of Management PDST Application

The Vice Chair summarized committee responses to the Master of Management PDST application, noting that both GC and CAPRA support the proposal, with CAPRA's endorsement following correspondence with the program. The Vice Chair reported that CAPRA has ongoing questions about the institutional process for proposing, supporting, and reviewing PDST programs, including for sunseting of programs that are not reaching their breakeven enrollment goals. These concerns were expressed in a separate memo to the Provost. Members unanimously endorsed the application for transmittal to the administration.

Action: Transmit Divisional Council's endorsement of the M.M. PDST application to the administration.

V. Campus Review Items

A. UC Merced Sustainability Strategic Plan

Members considered committee comments on the plan. Common themes included the plan's connections to the campus's academic mission and the desire for additional information about the financial and resource implications of the plan. Members noted that the plan appears to be aligned to the AASHE STARS standards, whereas committee comments focus on a different set of priorities. Members concluded the document offered a good start on a strategic plan for the campus.

Action: The Chair will draft a response for review by Divisional Council prior to transmittal to Associate Chancellor Putney.

B. UC Merced Climate Action Plan

Members considered committee comments on the plan, including questions about the resources necessary to implement the plan, the plan's connections to the educational and research mission and the campus's expansion, and the suggestion for closer alignment with the Sustainability Strategic Plan.

Action: The Chair will draft a response for review by Divisional Council prior to transmittal to Associate Chancellor Putney.

VI. Cattle Grazing and Vernal Pool Reserve

CoR Vice Chair Marcia reported that CoR is seeking Divisional Council's endorsement of its recommendation that a panel of experts be charged to evaluate the issue of cattle grazing on the reserve. CoR has discussed its recommendation with the VCORED. Members unanimously endorsed CoR's recommendation for transmittal to VCORED.

Action: Transmit CoR's recommendation to the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development.

VII. Committee Chairs' Reports

- [Academic Planning & Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA)
CAPRA Chair Singhal reported that CAPRA is inviting the campus's Director of Sustainability to discuss with CAPRA the Sustainability Strategic Plan and Climate Action Plan. At CAPRA's most recent meeting, the VCPB presented the results of a scoping study UC Merced conducted on activity based costing. She also provided an overview of last year's budget. CAPRA is requesting information on space planning from the Director of Space Planning and Analysis, Maggie Saunders.
- [Academic Personnel](#) (CAP)
Via a written report, the CAPRA Chair López-Calvo reported that CAP and D&E intend to collaborate on a memo to the VPF encouraging clarification in the personnel process of the expectations faculty contributions to diversity.
- [Committees](#) (CoC)
CoC Chair Hansford reported that CoC has appointed a co-chair and three members to the Evaluation of Teaching Taskforce initiated by the VPF, a representative to the Police Advisory Board, and two representatives to the five-year review committee for the VPDUE. CoC is still working to identify representative to the Student Conduct Hearing Board as well as a Humanist for CAP.
- [Committee on Research](#) (CoR)
CoR Vice Chair Marcia reported that CoR has met with the Director of Space Planning and Analysis, Maggie Saunders. CoR has also commented on the five-year review of Sierra Nevada Research Institute, and has been working on with the VCORED to address concerns raised about cattle grazing in the vernal pool reserve.
- [Rules and Elections](#) (CRE)
CRE Chair Tian reported that CRE will hold its first meeting of the academic year this week. CRE will complete its voting guide this fall.
- [Diversity and Equity](#) (D&E)
D&E Chair Chin reported that D&E will be collaborating with CAP on the memo to the VPF encouraging clarification of expectations for addressing faculty contributions to diversity in the personnel process. D&E is also collaborating with FWAF on joint memo addressing diversity in faculty hiring. This is a carry-over item from last year. D&E has reminded the Faculty Equity Advisors that their work is guided by the university's definition of diversity.
- [Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#) (FWAF)
FWAF Chair was unable to provide a report, as he was unexpectedly called into another meeting.
- [Graduate Council](#) (GC)
GC Chair Ghezzehei reported that GC anticipates receiving at least four CCGA proposals this fall; two have been submitted thus far. A request has been made for Graduate Division to offer a course. GC has declined to approve this request and will be sending a letter to the graduate group chairs summarizing its recommendations on this topic.
- [Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC)
UGC Chair Zanzucchi reported that UGC has sent it revised bylaws to CRE for its review prior to broader Senate consideration. UGC has is also consulting with the General Education Subcommittee on the implementation of the new General Education program, and has met with the Director of Space Planning and Analysis, Maggie Saunders, to discuss space.

VIII. Informational Items

- 9/25/2017: FWAF wrote to Associate Chancellor Putney regarding a policy being drafted on free speech and external speakers. The policy will ultimately be issued to the campus for review.
- 9/26/2017: The Provost responded to DivCo's recommendation to endorse the Open Access 2020 Expression of Interest.
- 10/2/2017: The Academic Council sent to President Napolitano a set of principles to guide options for redirecting funds to enrollment in response to the 2017 Budget Act.
- 10/5/2017: The Academic Council endorsed, and forwarded to President Napolitano, letters from the University Committee on Faculty Welfare (UCFW) and its Task Forces on Investment and Retirement (TFIR) and Health Care (HCTF), in support of a plan for maintaining UC retiree health benefits.