

**DIVISIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**December 11, 2017**

Pursuant to call, the Divisional Council met at 10:00 a.m. on December 11, 2017 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Susan Amussen presiding.

Present: Kurt Schnier, Wei-Chun Chin, Tom Hansford, Ignacio López-Calvo, Shawn Newsam, David Noelle, Mukesh Singhal, and Anne Zanzucchi. Sean Malloy participated by telephone. LeRoy Westerling represented Graduate Council and Haifeng Huang the Committee on Rules and Elections.

**I. Chair's Report & Announcements**

**A. Academic Council (11/29)**

The Chair reported that Lark Park, the newest UC Regent and a senior advisor in the Governor's Office, and President Napolitano joined Academic Council. Discussion focused on Ms. Park's interests and priorities for the UC and President Napolitano's efforts to rebuild relationships with the UC and legislature following the outcomes of the investigation into the her office's handling of the OP survey-based audit. President Napolitano expressed a desire for the Senate and faculty to be engaged more directly in Sacramento. The Chair also reported that the Regents approved the UC submitting a bid for the management and operating contract of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) for the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration.

**B. Meeting with the Provost (12/6)**

The Chair reported that the implementation of the General Education was a principal topic of discussion. Space planning was also discussed.

**II. Consent Calendar**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**III. Consultation with Chancellor Leland**

Following a welcome by the Chair, the Chancellor began to address the discussion topics identified by members in anticipation of the meeting. On the topic of her perspective on the planning initiatives currently underway, the Chancellor expressed her support for all collaborations. As positive outcomes, she highlighted the data informed nature of the academic planning process and the timeliness of the school reorganization effort, which will increase the deans' capacities for development activities. She also recognized that providing appropriate staffing to emergent departments will be an ongoing challenge. She shared her pleasure with this year's Senate-administration retreat, which led to the three planning initiatives currently underway, and expressed her support for holding the retreat annually with the goal of identifying priority issues for the year.

With respect to the status of funding to support AB 97, the Chancellor summarized a recent communication from the President's Office on the topic, and noted that she is seeking clarification of the status of the campus' student success funds, although her preliminary conclusion is that they will continue.

With respect to the status of plans to relocate Extension and Summer Session to Academic Affairs, the Chancellor reported that she anticipates this will happen in 2019 or 2020. The timeline is contingent upon the programs generating enough revenue to support the FTE necessary to run these initiatives. Currently, both Extension and Summer Session are supported by partial FTE commitments that are permanent to the

Division of Student Affairs. The Chancellor invited Divisional Council to provide recommendations for strengthening academic oversight of these units in the interim.

With respect to the status of the Provost's review, the Chancellor reported that the Provost's five-year leadership development assessment was completed last spring. The review is formative, unlike the five-year review of a dean. As such, the outcomes of the review are confidential. The results are, however, informing performance expectations.

With respect to the University's efforts to improve the system's relationship with Sacramento, the Chancellor reported that, as an outcome of the Moreno report, the President is seeking to broaden the circle of advisors with whom she consults. The campus Chancellors are encouraging a bold move to convince the legislature that the system is responding to its criticisms. In general, the legislature believes that the Office of the President (OP) is over funded and that the money should instead be going to the campuses to support enrollment. To strengthen legislature's support for the system, the Chancellor believes OP needs to involve faculty and students in its work with Sacramento in a much more strategic and targeted way. The Chancellor also commented that it will be important to shift the legislature's focus to our functions as a research university. The Chair noted that faculty could effectively speak to how teaching and research are an integral part of the UC's contribution to education and policy. The chair noted that the faculty are prepared to talk about their work as scholars, researchers, and teachers.

#### **IV. Executive Session Memo**

The Vice Chair summarized a member's concerns about sending a generic memo on executive session to the academic administrative leadership. Following discussion, members ultimately concluded that the memo would be revised to address the role of executive session in relation to ongoing Senate-administration collaborations.

**Action:** The Chair will revise the memo, circulating it as a consent calendar item, for transmittal before the holiday break.

#### **V. D&E and FWF Memoranda on Faculty Hiring**

The FWF Chair outlined the revisions FWF and D&E made to the general statement of principles titled "Diversity, Hiring, Retention, and Excellence at UC Merced" following the November 27, 2017 DivCo meeting. The FWF Chair noted that the "Diversity in Faculty Hiring" memorandum remained unchanged since its presentation to DivCo on November 27. Members unanimously endorsed transmitting both statements to the Provost.

**Action:** Transmit FWF and D&E's memoranda on diversity in faculty hiring to the Provost/EVC.

#### **VI. Sierra Nevada Research Institute Review (SNRI)**

The CoR Chair reported that, in response to the outcomes of SNRI's review, CoR is recommending that SNRI's status as an ORU be renewed and Professor Roger Bales reappointed as its Director. The Division Chair noted the thoroughness and usefulness of the review, and inquired about the Senate's role in reappointing a director of an ORU. The CoR Chair responded that as per policy, Divisional Council's input is consultative; the decision to reappoint ultimately lies with the administration. Members unanimously endorsed CoR's recommendation for transmittal to VCORED Traina.

**Action:** Transmit to VCORED Traina Divisional Council's endorsement of CoR's recommendation to renew SNRI's status as an ORU and to reappoint its Director.

**VII. Committee Chairs' Reports**

- [Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC)  
The UGC Chair reported that UGC convenes today. Agenda items include an update on General Education, consideration of the draft bylaw for the General Education program, and recommending next steps for ASUCM's proposal for a rest and recitation week.
- [Graduate Council](#) (GC)  
The GC Vice Chair reported that Provost Peterson joined Graduate Council's December 7, 2017 meeting. Discussion focused on the senate-administration working groups, faculty and staff hiring, and the campus's budget. Graduate Council recently approved policies and procedures for the review and approval of non-degree programs proposed by UC Merced Extension, procedures for appointing graduate students as instructor of record for upper division courses, and proposed revisions to the Graduate Policies and Procedures Handbook addressing changes to NRST policies adopted by Graduate Division. GC also endorsed the revised Incentive Plan for Revenue Generating Master's Degree Programs, with the condition that carryover is automatically allowable. Graduate Council has received and is in the process of reviewing three CCGA proposals for graduate program leading to M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Bioengineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and Management of Complex Systems.
- [Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#) (FWAF)  
The FWAF Chair reported that FWAF has been consulting with Associate Chancellor Putney and Campus Counsel Elisabeth Gunther on a draft campus policy addressing campus speakers and protests. On January 1, 2018 this new policy will be adopted on an interim basis until such time it undergoes full campus review.
- [Diversity and Equity](#) (D&E)  
The D&E Chair reported that, at D&E's December 7, 2017 meeting, D&E met with the three Faculty Equity Advisors (FEAs) to gather feedback on their roles in the faculty recruitment process and the status of the searches in each school. The Chair also reported that D&E is working on a diversity plan for academic units as future department chairs will be expected to report on faculty and student diversity both annually and as part of academic program review.
- [Rules and Elections](#) (CRE)  
CRE member Haifeng Huang reported that, at its December 6 meeting, CRE considered a request to determine if the Director of the Merritt Writing Program is a member of the Division by virtue of the appointment of a director of an academic program. CRE ruled that the Director of the MWP is a member of the Division; however, to avoid any potential conflicts of interest between the work of some Senate committees and this position's responsibilities, the Director of the MWP is not eligible to serve on any Senate committees. The member also reported that CRE is finalizing its voting guide.
- [Committee on Research](#) (CoR)  
The CoR Chair reported that CoR has drafted memos to the VCORED and the Budget Policy Work Group on the need for additional sources of discretionary research funds for faculty as well as the possibility of leveraging indirect cost returns to partially address this need. The memo to Budget Policy Work Group is coauthored with CAPRA. CoR will work next on a similar memo in support of research computing. At its next meeting, CoR hopes to finalize the call for proposals for the annual grant program.
- [Committees](#) (CoC)

The CoC Chair reported that CoC has nominated three UC Merced faculty for the systemwide Senate Editorial Committee. CoC is making good progress identifying two representatives to GC for spring term to replace two members who will be on sabbatical. CoC continues to work on a request from UGC for additional members.

- [Academic Personnel](#) (CAP)

The CAP Chair reported that he met with the D&E to advance work on joint memo to the Vice Provost of the Faculty regarding faculty contributions to diversity.

- [Academic Planning & Resource Allocation](#)

The CAPRA Chair reported that CAPRA has submitted to the Senate Chair its comments on the revised Incentive Plan for Revenue Generating Master's Degree Programs. CAPRA will consult with Provost Peterson this week on the timeline for this year's FTE request. Members also continue to receive updates on Budget Policy and Academic Planning Working Groups from CAPRA's representatives.

**VIII. Other Business**

No other business was considered.

**IX. Informational Items**

- 12/5/2017 – Senate comments on the Negotiated Salary Trial Program were transmitted to the Vice Provost for Academic Personnel, Susan Carlson.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 11:33 p.m.

Attest: Susan Amussen, Senate Chair