

**DIVISIONAL COUNCIL****Minutes of Meeting****November 6, 2018**

Pursuant to call, the Divisional Council met at 3:00 p.m. on November 6, 2018 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Senate Chair Kurt Schnier presiding.

Present: Ignacio Lopez-Calvo, Laura Hamilton, Anne Kelley, Clarissa Nobile, Jay Sharping, Michael Scheibner, Jessica Trounstone, Peter Vanderschraaf, LeRoy Westerling, and Christopher Viney. Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, Gregg Camfield, joined the meeting for agenda item I, Elizabeth Whitt, the VPDUE, and Valerie Leppert, Chair of the General Education program, joined for item II, and Maria DePrano, Chair of the Library and Scholarly Communications Committee, and Haipeng Li, the University Librarian, joined for item III.

**I. Consultation with Interim Provost Camfield**

The Interim Provost stated he plans to strengthen communication by sharing agendas from all his meetings with the Senate Chair and Vice Chair. He reported that the Federal government is making changes to its policies regarding international, particularly Chinese and Iranian, scholars as well as agreements for working with Chinese businesses. These policies revisions will impact possible funding sources, change the oversight necessary for international collaborations, and impact graduate student recruitment. The VCORED has been briefed by FBI. A member asked about timeline and it looks like these changes will take place January 1, 2019, pending the outcome of the comment period. A member asked about the impact on faculty attending conferences or sabbaticals overseas. The Interim Provost reported that, at this time, the extent to which this will change or modify this kind of travel is unclear.

**II. Consultation with the VPDUE and Faculty Chair of the GE Program**

Following introductory remarks by the UGC Chair and the distribution of a working document outlining responsibilities for implementation of the GE program, the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education, Elizabeth Whitt, and the Chair of the General Education program, Valerie Leppert, updated Divisional Council on progress establishing the GE Executive Committee. Currently, the committee is only partially formed. The GE Chair is working to elucidate the issues underlying the absence of representatives from SoE and SNS. The UGC Chair asked members to encourage SNS or SoE representatives to join the GE executive committee. He noted that, in the absence of this committee, UGC is having to assume responsibility for approving proposals for Spark seminar sections and additional badge offerings. The GE Chair expressed her appreciation for UGC's willingness to be a partner, and noted that every effort is being made to minimize UGC's workload.

**III. Consultation with the LASC Chair and University Librarian**

The Chair of the Library and Scholarly Communications Committee, Maria DePrano, and University Librarian, Haipeng Li, updated DivCo on the status of the University of California's contract negotiations with Elsevier. Chair DePrano provided an overview of the negotiations as per the one-page summary of [essential facts](#) circulated to the membership prior to the meeting. The cost of journal subscriptions is outpacing the University's ability to pay. UC's goal is to lower subscription costs and eliminate the current situation in which the university is paying subscription fees while also paying to publish in open access journals. Members were asked to bring this topic back to their committees and colleagues so that faculty are aware of the possibility of losing access to new publications starting January 1, 2019 should an agreement not be reached by the December 31 contract expiration date. If the negotiation break down, the UC will lose access to about 1,200 journals, mostly in the sciences. A member asked about statistics regarding how many UC faculty are Elsevier editors or on editorial advisory boards. Fourteen UC Merced faculty are editors.

The LASC Chair reported that there is an open faculty forum on this topic on Wednesday, November 14, from 12 to 1 p.m. The co-chair of the negotiation effort will be joining the event by Zoom. A member asked how Germany is coping with being cut off from access to new publications. The LASC Chair responded that researchers are finding alternative ways to access this material. Faculty at Cal Tech have been using interlibrary loan to access publications. A UC group is considering how best to address research needs should access be lost.

#### IV. Chair's Report & Announcements – *Chair Schnier*

##### A. Parking Conversation with TAPS Director Groth (10/25)

The Chair reported on the conversation he and the Vice Chair had with TAPS Director Groth in response to the action item stemming from the October 9 DivCo meeting. The TAPS Director described a broadly inclusive consultative process for developing the new parking rates. The Chair and Vice Chair voiced DivCo's concerns about the impact of the rate increase on graduate students and graduate student parking patterns. TAPS is anticipating that students will redistribute themselves, and TAPS plans to evaluate how the rates affect parking patterns generally, and will adjust as needed. Director Groth also reported that license plate data are firewall protected and unavailable to external vendors. For payment purposes, the system is connected to Banner and other necessary institutional systems. Individuals with concerns about data security can request a paper-based permit rather than use the new digital system.

##### B. Academic Council (10/26)

Topics of discussion included the transfer guarantee and how transfer enrollment is incentivized via funding; the faculty salary gap; increasing funding in support of diversifying the faculty, including via expansion of the Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship Program; academic freedom for librarians; and multi-year budgeting as a way to strengthen the legislature's support for long term planning for the UC. For the task force on standardized testing, Chair May is seeking faculty representatives with relevant research experience. Regent Kieffer joined the meeting; discussion focused on how the UC presents itself.

##### C. Meeting with Chancellor and Interim Provost (11/5)

Discussion focused on the status of the draft policy for establishing new schools and colleges, that will be circulated for campus review soon; the Core Team for the Academic Freedom Initiative; the academic planning working group; and topics of focus for the Meeting of the Division. It was decided that the Academic Governance Cabinet meeting scheduled for early December will be rescheduled for January 2019.

##### D. The UGC Chair noted that the transfer guarantee is a topic of much discussion at the systemwide Senate. At some point, UC Merced is going to be held accountable for the meeting the 2:1 transfer guarantee ratio, but it is unclear when that will be. It is important to be planning for that eventuality as it will take time to reach that ratio.

**ACTION:** The Chair will inquire with AVC Orcutt about when UC Merced will be expected to meet 2:1 first year to transfer student ratio.

##### E. Meeting with Interim Provost (11/1)

No report was provided.

#### V. Consent Calendar

##### A. The Agenda was approved as presented.

**VI. Discussion Item: Chairs' Reports**

No comments or questions were raised regarding committee chairs' reports circulated to members by email on Monday, November 5.

**VII. Informational Items**

- 10/22 – [President Napolitano informs Chancellors](#) about efforts to review and update the University's policy and practices related to the curation, repatriation, and disposition of Native American remains and cultural items in the University's custody.
- 11/1 – [Academic Council transmits](#) to President Napolitano its endorsement of UCAADE's recommendation to expand the President's Postdoctoral Program.

Attest: Kurt Schnier, Chair