

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
December 11, 2018

Pursuant to call, the Divisional Council met at 3:00 p.m. on December 11, 2018 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Senate Chair Kurt Schnier presiding.

Present: Ignacio Lopez-Calvo, Laura Hamilton, Linda Hirst, Anne Kelley, Shawn Newsam, Jay Sharping, Michael Scheibner, Jessica Trounstine, Peter Vanderschraaf, LeRoy Westerling, and Christopher Viney. Yanboa Ma participated by Zoom. Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, Gregg Camfield joined the meeting for agenda item I.

I. Consultation with Interim Provost Camfield

The Interim Provost reported that the space allocation plan has received a number of compliments and few complaints. Planning for an enrollment management strategic planning committee continues to advance. The UGC Chair, VSCA, and AFAS Chair have agreed that a small committee of approximately five individuals will be charged with setting high level enrollment strategy and targets. The membership is envisioned to be evenly split between faculty and administrative representatives and will include a representative from IRDS. A separate group would then be responsible for implementing the plan. Once drafted, the charge and membership will be brought to DivCo for comment.

The Interim Provost also reported that the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor for Operations and Provost will be meeting with President Napolitano to discuss our campus strategy, a conversation that dovetails directly with the President's plan to re-orient university's budget planning to a multi-year timeline. The presentation, which is essentially a budget ask, will focus on undergraduate success for native and transfer students, faculty research productivity, faculty diversity, carbon neutrality, and the campus' plan to diversify of revenue streams, including development. As part of student success, the campus will highlight that Merced is the second highest performing campus in the percentage of graduates that go on to complete doctoral degrees. The campus is pursuing funding based on the differential costs of serving historically underrepresented students.

A member asked about increasing recruitment of international students as a source of revenue. The Interim Provost responded that the campus would like to do that, but must pursue avenues in which we can complete successfully with our sister campuses. For instance, the campus might have success targeting international, transfer students. Discussion also focused on the reasons underlying our students' success in completing post-graduate degrees. The campus does not know the reason. Members discussed a variety of possible explanations.

II. LASC Update – LASC Chair Maria DePrano

Chair DePrano summarized LASC's accomplishments thus far this year; the committee has met twice, hosted, with the Library, an open forum on the Elsevier negotiations, sent to the Executive Director of Space Planning and Analysis a memo urging additional space for the library, and supported the library in gaining funds for the furniture necessary to make the library's fourth floor a quiet study space. The chair reported that the Elsevier negotiations have likely come to an impasse. There is a strong possibility that the system will lose access to new Elsevier content come January 1.

Chair DePrano also discussed the configuration of LASC's membership, proposing that the committee be populated by CoC and at a slightly larger size of four to five, rather than comprised of representatives from standing committees. A number of advantages to having at-large representatives were outlined,

including that it is consistent with how equivalent committees are populated in other Divisions. A member noted that this would weaken LASC's linkages with other Senate committees.

Finally, the LASC Chair encouraged DivCo to consider having the LASC Chair report at Division Meetings, participate in significant events like Chair May's visit, and present more regularly at DivCo. The Senate Chair invited Chair DePrano to put these request to DivCo in a memo to facilitate discussion by DivCo.

ACTION: Chair DePrano will submit to the Senate Chair a memo outlining LASC's requests regarding its membership and participation in Divisional leadership activities.

III. Chair's Report & Announcements – *Chair Schnier*

A. Meeting with Interim Provost (12/11)

The Chair reported that the idea of ad-hoc work group to address the integration of non-Senate faculty into departmental and Senate governance was discussed. The Interim Provost requested Divisional Council discuss what the charge to such a group might look like. It was confirmed that the Academic Planning Work Group meetings will be scheduled, and that the charge is being finalized. Also discussed was progress with establishing the GE Executive Committee and the idea of capping LSOE teaching loads.

B. Meeting with Chancellor and Interim Provost (12/3)

The Chair reported that the need for campus protocols to handle emergency decision making was discussed, as was the proposal to focus the Academic Governance Cabinet meeting on the topic of campus efforts to meet the basic needs of our undergraduate and graduate students, e.g. food and housing security, access to mental health care, etc.

C. Academic Council (11/28)

Topics of discussion at Academic Council included establishing systemwide policies for posthumous degrees, the standardized testing task force, and the system's plans to focus on the UC's special contribution to the state in terms of degree completion and how, with additional funding, the UC can help the state meet its degree generation needs. The Chair encouraged the UC avoid putting itself in a position where simplistic interpretation of whether targets are achieved could leave state funding in jeopardy; the UC must also guard against negative impacts on educational quality. Finally, the Senate is pushing for a 6% increase in on-scale salaries per year until the mean salary is comparable to that of our comparison eight. They are also encouraging that the correction be largely delivered in the near future given that the state is anticipating a recession.

IV. Consent Calendar

A. The Agenda was approved as presented.

V. Campus Review Items

A. [Proposed Revisions to Policy for Posthumous Baccalaureate Degrees](#)

The UGC Chair agreed to ask UGC to consider committee comments on the proposed [revisions to the campus's policy for awarding posthumous baccalaureate degrees](#). The Chair reported that, at the systemwide Chair's direction, UCEP is now pursuing a single policy for all campuses. Given this, UGC may choose to wait for the systemwide policy rather than immediately pursue revisions. The GC Chair reported that the CCGA Chair asked CCGA members for their campuses' posthumous degree policies as well. Similar considerations may be under way that the graduate level as well.

ACTION: The UGC Chair will take committee and administrator comments back to UGC for consideration.

B. [Principles to Guide the Conduct of Executive Session](#)

Following brief discussion, members endorsed the proposed [Principles to Guide the Conduct of Executive Session](#) conditional on revising the document to address questions raised by CRE.

ACTION: The Chair will revise the document to address CRE's questions and it will be posted on the Senate website.

VI. Graduate Council Memo: Graduate Education & Research Support – GC Chair Westerling

The GC Chair provided an overview of the [memo from Graduate Council to the Chancellor and Interim Provost](#). A member wondered if increases to USAP funds for graduate students, as recommended in the memo, would reduce resources for undergraduates. The Chair responded that campuses can supplement USAP funds with other sources of revenue. A member recommended adding a sentence to bullet 1 to make clear that it's the magnitude of the difference, rather than the exact amount, that is the point of the comparison of per student funding differences between Irvine and Merced. The Chair noted that the memo seems to encourage the alignment of the budget with graduate education and research and budget transparency. The GC Chair responded that the goal is transparency about the level of commitment to graduate education and research and the campus's priorities when making trade-offs. GC also wants more money for graduate student education and the associated research infrastructure. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to endorse the memo with the addition of a cover letter to address the preceding points.

ACTION: The Chair will draft a cover member communicating the points above for transmittal to the Chancellor and Provost.

VII. FWAF Memo: Equity for Teaching Professors – FWAF Chair Hamilton

Members initiated discussion of [the memo](#) from the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom recommending development of a campus-wide cap on instructional workload of four to five courses annually for the Teaching Professor series. A concern was raised about the fairness of creating such a cap for LSOEs when they did not exist for research professors. The FWAF Chair noted that protections are needed for groups in vulnerable positions, but that did not preclude similar protections for research professors. The Chair noted that perhaps MOUs, completed at the time of hiring, could be used to establish responsibilities for LSOEs. The FWAF Chair noted that it would not preclude teaching loads that matched those of non-Senate faculty making it difficult for LSOEs to meet APM expectations for success in their positions. Ultimately, members agreed this topic required further time for discussion.

ACTION: The discussion will be continued at the next DivCo meeting.

VIII. Proposed Revisions: Master's Degree Requirements – GC Chair Westerling

Members endorsed for campus review the proposed revisions to Part IV. Section II: Master's Degree Requirements of the [Merced Division Regulations](#).

ACTION: The Chair will distribute the proposed revisions to Division Regulations for campus review.

IX. DivCo Participation: School Executive Committee Chairs – Vice Chair Kelley

Discussion of this item was postponed to the first DivCo meeting of the spring semester.

ACTION: The Chair will schedule this item for the first DivCo meeting of spring semester.

X. Discussion Item: Chairs' Reports

No questions or comments were made regarding committee chairs' reports circulated to members by email on Monday, December 10.

XI. Informational Items

- 12/1 – [Academic Senate comments](#) on the draft report of President Napolitano's UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Advisory Committee were transmitted to the Chair of the UC ANR Advisory Committee.

Attest: Kurt Schnier, Chair