

**DIVISIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**February 20, 2018**

Pursuant to call, the Divisional Council met at 10:30 a.m. on February 20, 2018 in Room 360 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Susan Amussen presiding.

Present: Kurt Schnier, Teamrat Ghezzehei, Tom Hansford, Patti LiWang, Shawn Newsam, David Noelle, Mukesh Singhal, and Lin Tian. Ignacio López-Calvo and Anne Zanzucchi participated by phone. FWAf Vice Chair, Virginia Adan-Lifante, represented FWAf.

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

**A. Chancellor's Cabinet (2/14)**

The Vice Chair reported that discussion focused primarily on workforce planning. An update was provided on the hires made in relation to this year's workforce planning allocation. It was noted that a subset of these FTE are being retained to support academic reorganization in the schools. Of the three FTE dedicated to facilitate transitional planning, one is being used and two are being held. The Organizational Efficiency and Sustainability Work Group has resumed meeting and will be addressing the fractional FTE devoted to tasks across individuals. The intention is to determine the process by which those fractional FTE can be migrated to a single FTE supporting a given functional need.

**B. Assembly Meeting (2/14)**

The Chair reported the UC appears to be making progress with respect to increasing the state's support for UC in the FY2018-19 budget. The system is also working on degree completion initiatives with foreign universities to address the needs of undocumented students who have departed the system. Attention is being paid to increasing faculty salaries in a way that addresses the salary scales with sensitivity to the varied inequity issues among and within campuses. Finally, the Assembly approved changes to the Senate Regulation 424.A.3 (Area "D") requirement regarding science preparation for UC.

**C. Meeting with Provost (2/14)**

The implementation of the new General Education program was discussed as was the upcoming Accreditation Visit.

**D. Meeting with Chancellor (2/14)**

The Provost/EVC transition as discussed. The Chancellor will be consulting with the faculty on options for addressing this transition.

**II. Consent Calendar**

Agenda item III B. was moved to the end of the agenda as per the Vice Chair's request. The minutes of the February 6, 2018 were approved as presented.

**III. Campus Review Items**

**A. Revised Honors Regulations**

Discussion focused on UGC's concern that the proposed revisions to Section Part II, Section 4 of the Division Regulations addressing Honors could lead to difficulties differentiating requirements for

Honors within the major from the existing requirements for University Honors at Graduation. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to amend the sentence “Programs may include levels of honors at graduation.” to read “Programs may include levels of honors at graduation in the major.”

**ACTION:** The Chair will transmit the proposed revision to CRE for its review and approval in anticipation of presenting this item at the April 16, 2018 Meeting of the Division.

**B. Minor in Management Analytics and Decision- Making**

Following Vice Chair Schnier’s request, this item was discussed as the last item of the meeting. Prior to Divisional Council’s discussion, the Vice Chair recused himself and left the meeting. The UGC Chair summarized the history of the *Proposal for a Minor in Management Analytics and Decision Making at UC Merced*. Currently, UGC is considering a revised proposal as well as comments on the revised proposal from entities that commented on the original proposal during last spring’s campus review. Because the responses to the revised proposal raise questions that UGC is unable to resolve without response from the program, UGC requested that DivCo invite the program to respond to the most recent round of comments. A member noted that it may be useful for UGC to provide a set of questions to help guide the program’s response. A motion was made, seconded, and endorsed that the Chair will forward committee and administration comments to the program with an invitation to respond, and that the invitation would include guiding questions from UGC. Members will be invited to endorse Divisional Council’s memo by email.

**ACTION:** Following receipt of a memo from UGC providing guiding questions, the Chair will draft for Divisional Council’s endorsement by email a memo inviting the program’s response to committee and administration comments on the revised *Proposal for a Minor in Management Analytics and Decision Making at UC Merced*.

**IV. EECS CCGA Proposal**

The GC Chair presented the *Proposal for A Program of Graduate Studies in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science for MS and PhD Degrees* noting that Graduate Council found the proposal complete and ready for consideration by CCGA. The Senate Chair reported that the proposal had been through a full campus review in a prior year. Minor recommendations stemming from this review have been addressed. Members unanimously approved the proposal for transmittal to the administration, and ultimately CCGA, voting 10 for, zero against, with three abstentions by Divisional Council members affiliated with the EECS program.

**ACTION:** The Chair will transmit Divisional Council’s approval to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education.

**V. GE Program Implementation**

Members discussed a memo from the Chair of the School of Engineering Executive Committee raising concerns about the school’s ability to deliver the Spark seminars and suggesting strategies for addressing these concerns. The UGC Chair reported that UGC will be consulting with school executive committee chairs to discuss the credit hours associated with the Spark CRF. A member noted that four units is a considerable amount of work. The Chair noted, in her role as a faculty member, that meeting the learning outcomes for the course is the challenge to reducing the course to two units. The UGC chair stated it will be helpful for school representatives to understand what the GESG has considered already regarding this topic. A member suggested that reducing the enrollment cap to 19 from 24 would enable the campus to be recognized as offering small classes in *US News and World Report* rankings.

**ACTION:** The UGC Chair will update Divisional Council on the outcomes of her meeting with school executive chairs about the Spark seminar CRF.

## VI. Committee Chairs' Reports

- [Undergraduate Council](#)  
The UGC Chair reported that, during its February 12 meeting, UGC discussed the implementation of the new General Education program, approved CRFs, and, with the help of the Registrar's office, resolved a course numbering issue. UGC also considered proposed revisions to the Division's Honors Regulation, and the Proposal for a Minor in Management Analytics and Decision Making. UGC is considering the proposed revision to SB 128 by email.
- [Graduate Council](#)  
The GC Chair reported that, at its February 15 meeting, GC approved the EECS CCGA proposal, and discussed the impact of new General Education requirements on graduate education. As the program is rolled out, GC feels it will be important to consider how the campus's capacity to teach graduate only courses is impacted; GC noted that the committee had declined to comment on the proposal when it was considered in the last year. GC will be reviewing graduate recruitment fellowships this week.
- [Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#)  
The FWAF Vice Chair reported that FWAF discussed the recent incidents of students and non-student "visitors" recording classroom discussions, presentations, and lectures without the knowledge or consent of the instructor. At its February 15 meeting, FWAF reviewed UC Santa Barbara's policy on this topic, and agreed that Merced should adapt part of the language as future policy. FWAF will also draft a separate but related memo to the administration emphasizing its hope that the administration will stand by the faculty as they deal with these challenges. The Division's University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) representative, Jan Goggans, updated members UCAF business. Topics included the extension of the Negotiated Salary Trial Program, and issues surrounding hate speech, free speech, and academic freedom. FWAF also opined on CRE's revised, recommended voting guidelines for academic personnel cases, and will be submitting a memo.
- [Diversity and Equity](#)  
The D&E Chair reported that D&E has not met since the last Divisional Council meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 7. D&E representatives will be meeting with the external review teams for upcoming program reviews. D&E is also currently in the process of electronically reviewing campus and system review items, including CRE's Recommended Voting Procedures in Academic Personnel Cases, the Bioengineering CCGA proposal, and the proposed amendment to Senate Bylaw 128.
- [Rules and Elections](#)  
The CRE Chair reported that, following a request from the Chair of CoC, CRE asked the chairs of the executive committees of the School of Natural Sciences and the School of Engineering to encourage faculty members to nominate individuals for CoC. The goal is to increase representation from those schools on CoC. The Call for Nominations closed on Friday, February 16, following two extensions. The Senate received seven of eight required nominations for COC positions, and five of the four required nominations for the At-Large positions. CRE has asked the COC to identify the remaining nominee for for COC.
- [Committee on Research](#)

The Chair reported that two members of COR have taken the lead in conducting a first round of revisions to the 2014 Senate policy on the establishment and review of research units. The first phase of the revisions will be to clarify the definition, establishment, and review of core facilities and non-ORU centers. CoR is currently considering an ORU proposal, and is anticipating a proposal for a new core facility. Revisions to policy are being informed by practices on other campuses. Per the report from the COR representative on PROC, COR will not have a role in the periodic review of the Center for the Humanities. However, the Center for the Humanities has submitted an ORU proposal, which COR will review this semester. At its February 13 meeting, COR consulted with the VCORED, who discussed his response to COR's memo on indirect cost returns. VCORED Traina stated that the Budget Working Group is addressing the topic of indirect costs this semester. The goal of this effort is to look at what rules, if any, control the use of recovered costs and to develop recommendations as to the best use of these funds to support the campus research mission. The VCORED also shared with COR that the policies governing the allocation of indirect cost returns vary widely across UC campuses. COR also continued its conversation on research computing support. Members agreed that the COR Chair would informally contact two computational faculty members in SNS who have established a research computing committee. The COR chair will ask for an update on the committee's business, and suggestions for whom COR can contact to begin having an influence on policy around issues of research computing.

- [Committees](#)

The CoC Chair reported that CoC is working to complete the leadership slate for the upcoming academic year. Once complete, the committee will turn its attention to filling out committee rosters. To facilitate this work, the committee plans to meet in early March.

- [Academic Personnel](#)

The CAP Chair reported that CAP continues to conduct its normal business. CAP has asked the VPF to include in the MAPP language about how to consider books in regular reviews. The VPF recommended CAP follow the practice on other campuses, which is to consider only books that have been accepted for publication.

- [Academic Planning & Resource Allocation](#)

The CAPRA Chair reported that CAPRA has received faculty FTE requests from the schools and plans to submit its recommendations to the provost by March 15. CAPRA will schedule a special meeting in early March to rank the requests. CAPRA will consult with Chair Amussen at this Thursday's committee meeting regarding the GE implementation. CAPRA continues to receive updates on the Budget Working Group from committee member Kurt Schnier.

## VII. Informational Items

- 1/30/2018 – [Provost Brown extended](#) the Negotiated Salary Trial Program for an additional four years with a fifth year "wind-down" should the program not be continued after four years.
- The Chair noted that the Huron report was distributed to Divisional Council via email.

Attest: Susan Amussen, Senate Chair