

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
September 4, 2019

Pursuant to call, the Divisional Council met at 10:30 a.m. on September 4, 2019 in Room 397 of the Kolligian Library, Senate Chair Tom Hansford presiding.

Present: Asmeret Berhe, Michael Dawson, Robin DeLugan, Carolin Frank, Erin Hestir, Linda Hirst, Patti LiWang, Josué Medellin-Azuara, Michael Scheibner, Jay Sharping, and Christopher Viney. Nella Van Dyke and LeRoy Westerling participated by Zoom. EVC/Provost Camfield joined the meeting for agenda item II.

I. Welcome & Introductions – *Chair Hansford*

The Chair welcomed members and members introduced themselves.

II. Consultation with Provost/EVC Camfield

EVC/Provost expressed his support for regular communication with the Senate. Consistent with the “no surprises” principle, he reported the campus had projected an enrollment increase of 800 students for AY 2019-20, but only realized a 300-student increase. This will significantly impact the campus’s finances, and the administration is considering how best to address this. The EVC/Provost stated the campus will not defer hiring department specialists nor any hiring that is underway currently. The EVC/Provost is hopeful that enrollment planning and management needs will be addressed in the coming year and sees the Enrollment Strategy Committee as integral to the solution. He noted the campus will need to figure out how best to address the acute enrollment concerns in some programs while meeting the campus’s overarching enrollment targets.

The EVC/Provost also reiterated points he made during the Faculty Convocation on August 29. Specifically, given the current cultural climate, it critical that faculty understand academic freedom and the Faculty Code of Conduct, as established in APM 010 and 015 respectively, and to how to defend against attacks on academic freedom. With this in mind, he would like to ask the Senate to assist with an information campaign on these subjects. He also noted that academic freedom is an international issue and asked the Senate to consider identifying a lead individual and perhaps a committee to support the campus’s membership in the [Scholars at Risk Network](#).

With respect to enrollment management, the UGC Chair noted that this summer the Admissions and Financial Aid Subcommittee developed a pilot plan for addressing Computer Science and Engineering’s enrollment management needs. The EVC/Provost asked to have the AFAS Chair to bring this to the Enrollment Strategy Committee.

III. Chair’s Report & Announcements – *Chair Hansford*

5 Min

A. Review Select Informational Items (see agenda item X)

The Chair reported the following:

- The Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Budget is available to join committees to discuss academic planning.
- The search for a new chancellor is underway. Three faculty members from UC Merced, Jennifer Manilay, Valerie Leppert, and I, as well as the systemwide Senate Chair, Kum-Kum Bhavnani, and UCI faculty member Tony Smith, compose the faculty

subcommittee of the search advisory committee. There are two upcoming opportunities for the faculty to advise the advisory search committee on priorities for a new chancellor: Campus Day on September 24 and town halls on October 2. The search is otherwise confidential and there will be no on-campus interviews. Airport interviews will be held in March, following which the search committee will provide recommendations to President Napolitano for her consideration and final decision.

B. Carry Over Issue

The Chair reported the following:

- The proposal for a master's of science degree in Cognitive and Information Sciences is now out for Senate review.
- Proposed revisions to LASC Bylaws are have been circulated for campus review.
- A charge for a Faculty Advisory IT Committee is being developed for Senate consideration.
- The Chair is determining the status of carbon neutrality principles put forth by Roger Bales, in this capacity as a member of the systemwide Global Climate Leadership Council, for Senate endorsement in late spring 2019.

C. Meeting with Provost/EVC (8/28)

The Chair reported the following:

- This year's enrollment targets were discussed. Increasing transfer student enrollment will help manage enrollment in the future. Toward this end, the Provost will ask the Senate to encourage programs to review transfer requirements.
- The UCSF medical clinic in UC Merced is anticipated to open in November for faculty and staff.

IV. **Consent Calendar**

The Agenda was approved as presented.

V. **Conduct of Committee Business – *Chair Hansford***

A. [Meeting dates](#)

The Chair asked members to notify Executive Director Martin if they anticipate missing a meeting so an alternate can be identified.

B. Committee confidentiality

The Chair stated that neither the agenda nor chair reports are confidential. However, the conversation associated with discussion items is strictly confidential.

C. Distributing work on Divisional Council

The Chair noted that members can expect to present items that have come forward from their committees.

D. [Conflict of Interest statement](#)

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried endorsing the committee's existing [conflict of interest statement](#). Following endorsement of the statement, the Chair encouraged members to be clear about what "hat" they are wearing when participating in DivCo meetings. With the exception of at-large members, members are there primarily as representatives of their respective committees. At the same time, their experiences as faculty members are also valued.

ACTION: The endorsed CIO statement will be posted on the Senate's conflict of interest webpage.

VI. Discussion: Review Item Procedure – Chair Hansford

Following the discussion of possible models for handling campus and system review items, members endorsed having the Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director direct review items to specific committees, rather than distributing items to all committees as has been precedent. To ensure broad awareness of review items, and to preserve the option to review, all committee chairs will receive weekly a summary of all review items, their due dates, lead review committees, hyperlinks to the documents, and a brief summary of the item. Any chair/committee can elect to review any item. Members anticipate the new system will reduce the email load and help committees identify items most relevant to their committee's duties.

ACTION: Implement the new approach to handling review items.

VII. Discussion: Debrief Shared Governance Retreat – Vice Chair DeLugan

The Vice Chair provided an overview of the retreat for members who were unable to participate and invited members to comment, including by completing the brief follow-up survey if they had not already. Members reported finding it useful. The focus on substantive issues as discussion items and the overview of the administration's organization were highlighted as beneficial. Members variously recommended possibly holding it earlier, providing a status update on initiatives provided the year before, and ensuring slides have sufficiently large font. Members were also looking forward to the revised principles of shared governance.

ACTION: Finalize and circulate the principles of shared governance.

VIII. Establish Divisional Council's Goals for AY 19-20 – Chair Hansford

The Chair summarized AY 19-20 Senate goals put forward for the Shared Governance Retreat and invited additional goals.

- Continuing to strengthen shared governance
- Implementation of integrative planning in support of R1
- Implementation of enrollment strategy committee
- Redesign of sponsored research services
- Revisiting Senate service remuneration
- Faculty salary gap
- Post 2020 planning, including for financial sustainability
- Gallo school pre-proposal

A member highlighted the relationship of several of the items on the list, noting that staff-related issues, including lack of advancement opportunities, appropriate merit system, retention mechanisms, and the resulting churn in staffing, impacts everything that faculty do. Until these issues are addressed, faculty and students will not have a stable, sustainable support system. Members agreed this is a significant issue. Members also recommended there be additional faculty consultation on the redesign of sponsored projects support.

ACTION: The Chair will invite to future Divisional Council meetings the new Chief Human Resources Officer, the VC ORED, the Interim Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Budget, and the Interim Chancellor.

IX. New Business

The Chair returned to discussion of the Scholars at Risk Network, highlighting that the EVC/Provost is asking for a point of contact for the program and a committee for the campus, in keeping with the network's recommendations. Members requested more information about the campus's preparation to host a scholar in need, including a clear appointment process, space, etc. A member highlighted the existence of a similar organization, the [Climate Science Legal Defense Fund](#), which supports climate scientists that are targets of the anti-science movement.

ACTION: The Chair will see clarification from the administration regarding the campus's readiness to host a scholar in need.

X. Informational Items

- 5/13 – [Academic Assembly's approval](#) of revisions to Senate Regulation 424.A.3 (Area D) is transmitted to President Napolitano and Provost Brown
- 5/20 – [President Napolitano responds](#) to Senate Chair May regarding the Senate's concerns about research information management systems
- 5/23 - [Academic Council's approval](#) of UC Berkeley's proposal to establish a self-supporting Master of Design (MDes) graduate degree program is transmitted to Provost Brown
- 6/3 – [Academic Council's approval](#) of the Five-Year Review of Institute for Nuclear and Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology (INPAC) is transmitted to the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies
- 6/3 – [Academic Council's approval](#) of the Five-Year Review of UC Humanities Research Institute (UCHRI) is transmitted to the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies
- 6/3 – [Academic Council's endorsement](#) of UCOLASC's Declaration of Rights and Principles to Transform Scholarly Communication is transmitted to President Napolitano
- 6/3 - The [Interim Report](#) of the UC Academic Senate UC Non-Discrimination in Healthcare Task Force is transmitted to President Napolitano
- 6/3 – [Academic Senate comments](#) on the Interim Policy on Responding to Immigration Enforcement Involving Patients at UC Health Facilities are transmitted to the Executive Vice President of UC Health
- 6/14 – [Academic Assembly's endorsement](#) of the posthumous degree policy is transmitted to President Napolitano
- 6/14 – [Academic Council's endorsement](#) of UCEP's recommendations on UCI Online BA degree proposal is transmitted to Provost Brown
- 7/1 – [Plans for increases to the faculty salary scale](#) are transmitted to EVC/Provosts together with [President Napolitano's letter](#) to Chancellors on the same topic
- 7/1 – [Technical revisions to APM Section 715](#), Leaves of Absence/Family and Medical Leave, are formally transmitted to the system with [a cover letter](#)
- 7/1 – [New title codes and titles for academic personnel](#) are issued in response to the formation of the "Researchers-Academic Unit"
- 7/1 – [Technical revisions to APM Section 120](#), Emerita/Emeritus Titles, are formally transmitted to the system with [a cover letter](#)
- 7/8 - [Academic Council's endorsement](#) of a UCEP letter concerning options for addressing the illegal posting of copyrighted course materials via commercial websites is transmitted to Vice Provost Carlson

- 7/8 - [Academic Council's endorsement](#) of a University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) letter about the Canary Mission is transmitted to President Napolitano
- 7/8 – [The Senate's review](#) of the State Assessment Report for the UC Center in Sacramento is transmitted to Provost Brown
- 7/9 – [Academic Council transmits](#) UCEP recommendations on ILTI-related cross-campus enrollment system and data to Provost Brown
- 7/9 - [Academic Council's endorsement](#) of a UCFW letter supporting of the goals of CA Senate Bill 24 – “The College Student Right to Access Act” is transmitted to President Napolitano
- 7/10 – [Academic Council's statement](#) supporting alternative access to Elsevier journals is released
- 7/15 – President Napolitano's office [communicates the campus's faculty representatives](#) to the Advisory Committee for new UC Merced Chancellor
- 7/16 – [Academic Council statement](#) on the racialization of academic espionage concerns is transmitted to President Napolitano
- 7/22 – [Huawei moratorium letter](#) is issued to the Chancellors and together with [summary of the restrictions](#)
- 7/29 – [The Senate's review](#) of the State Assessment Report for the Research Grants Program Office is transmitted to Provost Brown
- 7/29 - [Academic Council's endorsement](#) of requests from UCFW and UCFW-HCTF for an effort to collect data related to the upcoming conversion of the Health Net Seniority Plus HMO Plan to a Medicare Advantage PPO is transmitted to President Napolitano
- 7/30 - [Academic Council's views](#) regarding the University's plan to close the UC faculty salary gap are transmitted to President Napolitano
- 7/30 - [Academic Council statement](#) about the Canary Mission and its request for the administration to endorse the statement is transmitted to President Napolitano
- 7/30 - [Academic Council's endorsement](#) of the final report of the Non-Discrimination in Healthcare Task Force is transmitted to President Napolitano
- 7/30 - [Academic Council's request](#) for clarifying guidelines addressing the teaching expectations of LSOEs in APM 285 is transmitted to Provost Brown
- 8/13 - [Academic Council statement](#) regarding the recent Academic Senate Memorial to the Regents on Divestment from Fossil Fuels is transmitted to President Napolitano
- 8/28 – [EVC/Provost responds](#) to [Divisional Council's July 3 memo](#) on the unintended impact on faculty of the adoption of diverse software solutions.
- 8/28 – EVC/Provost issues [the charge to the Enrollment Strategy Committee](#)
- [Divisional Council 2018-19 Annual Report](#)

Attest: Tom Hansford, Chair