

**DIVISIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 14, 2021**

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**Attendees:** Chair LeRoy Westerling, Vice Chair Patti LiWang, Christopher Viney, Ramesh Balasubramaniam, Kevin Mitchell, Erin Hestir, Holley Moyes, Jason Sexton, Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez, David Jennings, Martin Hagger, Min Hwan Lee, Justin Yeakel, Jeff Butler

I. Consultation with SNS Dean Betsy Dumont and Medical Education Director Thelma Hurd

Dean Dumont and Director Hurd provided an update on the SJV PRIME+ BS/MD Program (changed its name from SJV PRIME). The SJV PRIME + program has developed a charter, mission, vision, and goals and objectives. The program includes representatives from all three institutions: UC Merced, UCSF, and UCSF Fresno.

The four workstreams are:

- Outreach
  - Develops pathways to ensure a robust applicant pool for the BS/MD degree program.
  - First convened in June 2021 and holds bi-weekly meetings. Led by AVC Jill Orcutt with representatives from the UCSF and UCSF Fresno.
  - The outreach and recruitment plan has been preliminarily approved by SJV PRIME + and will be submitted to the Senate for review and approval.
- Admissions
  - Establishes admissions criteria for the BS/MD program.
  - Led by a representative from UCSF and includes representatives from UC Merced and UCSF Fresno.
  - Currently discussing the types of courses that would be needed and what qualities they would like to see in potential students. These discussions will ultimately lead to the implementation of an application process.
- Baccalaureate degree
  - Ensure alignment between BS degrees and the required entry-level competencies for the Medical School Program.
  - Led by SNS Dumont and includes representatives from UC Merced, UCSF, and UCSF Fresno.
  - Discussing targeted coursework in SSHA that is relevant to the San Joaquin Valley. This workstream's recommendations will be presented to UGC and AFAC.
- MD Foundations 1 (F1) preclinical training – first 18 months of the program
  - Led by Director Hurd with representatives from UC Merced, UCSF, and UCSF Fresno.
  - The workstream will be officially established in January 2022 and will discuss the implementation of the UCSF Bridges curriculum with the potential of adaptation for the needs of the San Joaquin Valley.
- MD Foundations 2 (F2) clinical training

Senate Chair Westerling asked SNS Dean Dumont and Director Hurd if they have specific requests of the Senate at this time. Dean Dumont replied that she and Director Hurd will be asking the Senate for input on how and when to provide the workstreams' recommendations to the Senate for review. Recommendations will first have to be approved by an executive committee that is one level above the workstreams. Senate Chair Westerling recommended that Senate lead committees be UGC, GC, AFAC, and CAPRA.

A Divisional Council member suggested that the SJV PRIME + program consult with outreach representatives very soon as they will be conducting recruitment in spring 2022. Dean Dumont agreed.

Director Hurd stated that the program is working intently on analyzing data on our student population which includes a variety of backgrounds. She did an assessment of STEM students, specifically their four-year graduation rate and their gateway STEM courses drop-out rate and the results were sobering. Director Hurd and her colleagues are working on introducing a Learning Assistant program in which these assistants would work with faculty and students in gateway courses. They are also working on other academic enrichment sources such as tutoring and the Living Learning Communities. Director Hurd shared that she analyzed long standing programs, their outcomes, and how they manage students who come from variously-resourced backgrounds. She found that the highest failure rate occurs during the first 18 months and in the gateway courses. Part of the problem is academic; another factor is the students' ability to adjust to a long and intensive curriculum as some of them take biology, calculus, chemistry, and a writing skills course in the first semester.

A Divisional Council member asked how the SJV PRIME + program intends to incentivize the medical school students to eventually stay and practice medicine in the San Joaquin Valley. Director Hurd answered that she examined similar programs nationally in both rural and urban areas and found that 60-70% of the students remain in the region to practice medicine after they complete their studies and residency. UCSF Fresno's retention rate after residency is 50%. It may increase.

Divisional Council members asked about the expectations for the Bridge programs, their likelihood of success, and what number of our students get admitted into medical school. Director Hurd responded that she is working on that data with IRDS and will share with Divisional Council once it is available.

## II. Chair's Report

### A. Highlights from the Meetings with Chancellor Muñoz and EVC/Camfield (Oct 5 and 7)

The main discussion topics were:

- i. Research administration. Senate Chair Westerling thanked CoR, FWAFF, and GC for their collaborative memo on research obstacles. EVC/Provost Camfield appreciated the memo's constructive tone and recommendations. However, Senate Chair Westerling pointed out that the pre-award process is still hampered by inefficient and onerous processes. He intends to meet with SPO Director Jue Sun and Interim VCORED Zatz. GC Chair Hestir stated that there appears to be a lack of trust in faculty and a lack of accountability on the administrative side. CoR Chair Sexton stated that the CoR/SPO Working Group (established in the last academic year) includes Director Sun and the group will hold its first AY 21-22 meeting soon.
- ii. Senate Chair Westerling asked EVC/Provost Camfield for 0.5 staff FTE for the Senate office to manage the P&T workload. Other UC campuses have two separate committees to handle these issues while UC Merced has just one, and limited staff support.

iii. Potential Unit 18 lecturer strike and publicly available information that could be issued to faculty.

B. C19 Cabinet Meetings

Some are concerned about the plethora of information about how the campus will respond to exigencies. Senate Chair Westerling asserted that the large amount of information is actually beneficial.

C. [Global Climate Leadership Council](#). Senate Chair Westerling will attend the Council meeting tomorrow. He pointed out to Divisional Council that Professor Roger Bales attended a Divisional Council meeting last year. Senate Chair Westerling regularly discusses with the Chancellor and EVC/Provost about measures the campus can take to reduce our carbon footprint.

D. Academic Planning Council

Senate Chair Westerling was appointed by systemwide Provost Brown to serve a two-year term. The Council is a joint Senate-Administration effort. Senate Chair Westerling reported that the Legislature imposed a mandate on the UC to enroll more students. UC President Drake proposed to the Regents that the UC will determine how to grow enrollment over the current commitment. The systemwide goal is to increase its student enrollment by 20,000 students by 2030. That includes 16,000 undergraduate students who are CA residents and 4,000 graduate students from any state or country. In order for UC Merced to increase enrollment, the campus needs resources and more staff support.

Senate Chair Westerling mentioned that there is pressure on UC President Drake to remove systemwide review of self-supported master's programs.

III. Consent Calendar

A. The Agenda

B. September 30 Meeting Minutes

**Action:** the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Undergraduate and Graduate Councils' Updates - UGC Chair Moyes and GC Chair Hestir

UGC Chair Moyes reported that there is a meeting with department chairs next week. UGC is not approving permanent online courses but is approving requests for temporary online courses for spring and summer 2022.

At the last Divisional Council meeting, the campus bookstore representative asked for a reasonable date by which faculty should submit their textbook requests. UGC suggests November 1. The campus bookstore will announce the date.

GC Chair Hestir stated that every campus has its own definition of a hybrid course. UGC and GC are forming a joint task force to determine a common definition of hybrid across undergraduate and graduate programs. With regard to COVID-19 planning, the campus still plans to allow people back after the Thanksgiving break with a rigorous testing procedure. However, there are concerns about K-12 plans and the campus has contingency plans.

UGC Chair Moyes stated that department chairs may be unclear about curriculum maps.

A Divisional Council member asked for an update on UGC's review of the School of Engineering Executive Committee's request for an emergency provision to allow lecturers and adjunct faculty to deliver CSE lectures remotely in spring 2022. UGC Chair Moyes replied that she asked the Executive Committee for a list of courses that would be taught in this manner. Divisional Council members briefly discussed the inadequate number of faculty and the number of failed searches. A Divisional Council member suggested that the campus should invest in more competitive start up packages for these faculty members.

**Action:** This discussion will be continued via email.

V. Update on Biomedical & Physical Sciences Building Closure – CoR Chair Sexton

Memos from SNS faculty on the BSP situation were hyperlinked on today's agenda. CoR Chair Sexton announced that the BSP building was granted a temporary occupancy permit. The campus is still being cautious with paperwork and safety training. CoR will discuss the ongoing BSP building issue and plans to consult with Interim VC Patrick Lenz. Faculty research has been severely hindered due to the BSP closure; the closure is perhaps more damaging to many faculty than the Oracle problems.

VI. New Business

A. Senate Chair Westerling suggested that the Senate provide guidelines to faculty on how to manage unionized mentees given that GSRs have joined a union.

**Action:** GC Chair Hestir will ask GC if they wish to opine on this issue or whether they decide it is under the purview of the Academic Personnel Office. GC Chair Hestir will provide an update at the next Divisional Council meeting.

B. Senate Chair Westerling asked about the process for the review of new programs that are established with funds from the Legislature or through an external gift. The Senate currently has policies for the review of new programs and units that are proposed by internal faculty. He is concerned that Senate consultation was an afterthought with regard to the Medical Education program.

**Action:** Divisional Council will discuss formulating a procedure for the Senate's review of new programs/units that are proposed by external parties.

C. EDI Chair Sandoval-Hernandez asked whether the Anti-Racism Task Force that was empaneled in AY 20-21 needs to be expanded or reconstituted given that a few of its members are no longer on Divisional Council.

D. The Chancellor has allocated \$1 million to the Academic Senate from the MacKenzie Scott gift funds. If the Senate utilizes the funds in a way that contributes to the campus's goals as well as the wishes of the donor, the Chancellor may allocate \$330,000 ongoing funding in perpetuity.

E. Senate Chair Westerling stated that the Senate will have the funds to spend next year; this year, he wants Divisional Council to formulate a plan on how to spend them.

- F. GC Chair Hestir raised the issue of student and post doc representation on Senate committees. How should the Senate incentivize their service on Senate committees to make it not just a service opportunity but a development and training opportunity, too?
  
- G. Senate Chair Westerling wants Divisional Council to discuss faculty FTE lines, in particular, the cost of unit 18 lecturers and Teaching Professors. CAPRA Chair Mitchell stated that data would be required on the cost to the campus of unit 18 lecturers, Teaching Professors, and research faculty. Senate Vice Chair LiWang suggested reviewing data on on-scale salaries of Senate faculty.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm

Attest: LeRoy Westerling, Senate Chair