

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, November 18, 2021

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. Chair's Report – LeRoy Westerling

- A. The UC and the AFT have reached an agreement and the strike of the Unit 18 lecturers is cancelled.
- B. November 2 Meeting with EVC/Provost Camfield
 - i. Senate faculty representatives are needed for the Medical Education workstreams.
 - ii. The Chancellor and EVC/Provost requested that the Senate restart the review of the Community and Labor Center ORU proposal. The Center has received funding from the Legislature.
 - iii. Discussion about funding mechanisms for departments. In some instances, faculty members' incidental funds were given to the department chairs to be administered centrally. This is the only flexible money that faculty have to cover unforeseen issues. While faculty will receive indirect cost money, it only applies to new grants. Furthermore, the average indirect cost generated by the average faculty member does not come close to the incidental funding that faculty have relied on.
 - iv. Senate Chair Westerling asked the administration to consider increasing staffing in the ORUs given that several faculty members have grants through the ORUs and submit their purchasing requests to ORU staff accordingly.
- C. November 4 Meeting with Chancellor Muñoz and EVC/Provost Camfield
 - i. Continued discussion of the use of the MacKenzie Scott gift
 - ii. There are more staff positions open now than at any time in the campus's history. The Chancellor will consider another round of increased hiring in March 2022 depending on the improvements made this semester.
 - iii. The EVC/Provost suggested the Senate create a postdoctoral fellowship program similar to the President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program and the Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program. However, Senate Chair Westerling pointed out that such a program comes with significant costs, approximate \$80 – 100,000 per year. DivCo members inquired whether those funds could roll to the next year if no hiring occurs. DivCo members also asked whether a postdoctoral fellow hired under a Senate program would still be afforded the same privileges in hiring as the systemwide and campuswide fellowship programs.
 - iv. Senate Representation on Strategic Planning Teams
Senate Chair Westerling emphasized the importance of these teams as they will help decide funding allocation across the campus.

Action: Senate Chair Westerling asked for a summary of all current requests for Senate representation (i.e. campus search committees, Medical Education workstreams, and Strategic Planning Teams) to be sent to Divisional Council.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. The Agenda
- B. October 14 Meeting Minutes
- C. October 28 Meeting Minutes

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Allocation of Funds from the MacKenzie Scott Gift**A. CAPRA Chair Mitchell and CoR Chair Sexton**

CoR Chair Sexton stated that per Senate Chair Westerling's request, CoR discussed potential ways to allocate the \$1 million the Chancellor is giving the Academic Senate from the MacKenzie Scott gift. CoR sent its list to CAPRA who held a discussion via email. The memo that is linked on today's DivCo agenda reflects the input from both committees.

CoR Chair Sexton stated that CoR is very supportive of increasing the funds for the Senate faculty grants program and providing funds for instrumentation.

Senate Chair Westerling suggested that the funding be spent in such a way that the campus could highlight the outcome as a success story through External Relations. For example, if some of the funding will be used for undergraduate student research, perhaps External Relations could develop a success story of that student to share with both internal and external audiences. It is important for the Chancellor to see that the funds he allocated to the Senate were put to a meaningful use.

CAPRA Chair Mitchell asked about the decision-making process for the allocation of the \$1 million. Senate Chair Westerling replied that it is Divisional Council's decision. However, he pointed out that in addition to deciding where to allocate the funds, the Senate will have a management role because it will have to collect data and report back to the Chancellor on whether the funding advanced campus strategic goals.

A Divisional Council member asked if these funds could be used for supporting undocumented students on research projects as it is difficult to support them on any federal grants. Senate Chair Westerling confirmed that this should be allowed.

B. GC Chair Hestir

GC Chair Hestir confirmed that the Chancellor is allocating \$2 million to the Graduate Division from the MacKenzie Scott gift for two purposes: 1) fellowships for recruiting graduate students. Graduate group chairs were asked to submit proposals with their plans to graduate PhD students in a timely manner to satisfy the Carnegie R1 criterion. 2) additional fellowships for graduate students in order to move away from the TA model.

GC Chair Hestir reported that GC discussed potential ways to spend the \$1 million from the Chancellor and they agreed on the following priorities:

- 1) Monetary remuneration for graduate students on Senate committees. Other campuses offer this compensation. GC would view this as a leadership fellowship and considers it necessary from an equity and a professional development perspective. The Graduate Division is willing to manage the funds and handle the mentorship and professional development piece. GC's rationale for such remuneration and professional development is that the campus needs to prepare the graduate students for the professoriate. Such remuneration would be low cost but high impact.

- 2) Leadership training for the professoriate. In addition to receiving stipends, Senate committee chairs would be provided with leadership development opportunities. This will improve campus's national networks and increase faculty's engagement at the systemwide and campus levels. UC Merced has a lot of untenured faculty that would benefit from leadership training.

A Divisional Council member pointed out that UC Merced does send about 10 individuals to the annual Executive Leadership Academy. In addition, UC Merced staff participate in UC-Coro. UC-Coro is open to faculty but hardly any apply, because the time commitment is not feasible with faculty's schedule.

Action: Senate Chair Westerling, together with the chairs of CAPRA, CoR, GC, and UGC, will draft a proposal on the allocation of the \$1 million in funding from the Chancellor. The proposal will articulate the top 3 or 4 funding priorities and will be distributed to Divisional Council members for review.

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

GC Chair Hestir announced that there are 60 students living in the dorms who have not received the COVID-19 vaccination. Many of these students have not been tested for COVID-19 and have only recently received a warning letter. This is distressing and the administration needs to take firm action.

Senate Chair Westerling pointed out that this issue has been raised in the standing COVID-19 meetings with campus leadership. The percentage of non-compliant students is low and when the campus conducted risk modeling, it was discovered that the small percentage of unvaccinated students would not have an impact on the campus. Initially, UC Merced was waiting to see how other UC campuses were handling non-compliance. At UC Davis, students who fail to comply with mandatory testing have their campus internet access revoked.

A Divisional Council member stated that while campus transmission of the virus may be low, the optics are concerning. Some faculty are reluctant to return to campus and the campus is apparently not managing non-compliant students effectively.

Senate Vice Chair LiWang stated per discussion in a recent COVID-19 meeting with campus leadership that she attended on behalf of Chair Westerling, the campus is placing holds on the spring registration of students who are non-compliant. The number of non-complaint staff is low.

Action: Senate Chair Westerling suggested that GC and UGC draft a joint memo addressed to the EVC/Provost about their concerns over the non-compliant students.

UGC Chair Moyes reported that UGC is receiving online modality requests after the deadline. UGC is approving most of them due to instructors' extenuating circumstances.

Action: Senate Chair Westerling wants Divisional Council to revisit this issue in the spring semester to discuss which requests UGC should and should not be approving.

V. CAP Workload Spring Semester – CAP Chair Balasubramaniam

CAP Chair Balasubramaniam shared with Divisional Council that CAP has not yet received any cases from the Schools. This means that their entire academic year workload (approximately 71 cases across the three Schools) will have to be done in the spring semester alone. While Senate committee members' terms do not end until August, CAP will likely find it difficult to achieve quorum after their last scheduled meeting in mid-June.

Divisional Council members stated that the delays in the Schools are due to staffing shortages and problems with the accuracy of the case materials. Another Divisional Council member suggested asking the deans for status updates on the cases.

CAP Chair Balasubramaniam also stated that CAP will lose a key member of the committee at the end of the fall semester. CoC is currently working to fill that vacancy. CoC Chair Hagger suggested that CoC could appoint an additional member to CAP.

VI. LASC Update – LASC Chair Maria DePrano

LASC Chair DePrano updated Divisional Council members on the following:

A. November 10 UCOLASC meeting

- i. Rebuilding California Digital Library (CDL) staff. The hiring freeze that was implemented on April 1, 2020 was lifted on July 12, 2021. They currently have 10 vacant positions.
- ii. UC's Collections Budget Coalition. UC libraries collectively spend \$50 million on licensed content: 1,200 databases, 120,000 online journals, and 1.2 million ebooks; used 1 billion times per year.
- iii. All 11 libraries pay a cost share, including CDL
- iv. CDL's cost share in fiscal year 2021-2022: \$11.4 million
- v. No funding source identified to date for fiscal year 2022-2023.
- vi. Open access publishing & UC agreements. UC transformative agreements:
 - a. Follow authors to journals they are already choosing. Do not require a shift in journal choice.
 - b. Do not change editorial aspects of publishing; change business terms. Shift investment from paywalled to open for all.
 - c. Support publishing in full open access journals as well as "hybrid" journals (subscription-based).
 - d. Include a range of significant UC authors' preferred publishers
- vii. Hypotheses re: authors who do not take up open access:
 - a. Workflow (options unclear)
 - b. Uncertainty about publishing options/financial implications of choice
 - c. Concerns about impact on UC and/or libraries budget
 - d. Concerns about costs of OA publishing. (Elsevier flagged this as separate "philosophical" issue.)
- viii. Diamond Open Access
 - a. an open access publishing model that provides immediate, unfettered access to publications without charge to authors or readers.
 - b. Tend to be scholar led, owned by research institutions and societies, and lack services provided by commercial publishers, such as marketing.
 - c. Are multilingual & give new ideas, types of scholarship, and
 - d. new research a venue for publishing.
 - e. Publishing services provided by eScholarship

- ix. DEI in scholarly communications
 - a. Recommendations for institutions from the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) pertaining to the criteria for hiring and promotion cases.
- x. HathiTrust updates
- xi. UC Library Search Update
 - a. Launched July 27, 2021 on all ten campuses and the CDL
- xii. LASC Goals and Priorities for 2021-2022
 - a. Library budget. LASC is concerned that the Library is closed on Saturdays and closes 4 hours earlier on Sundays than it used to. This is an equity issue.
 - b. Supporting the Library in creating the Sierra Nevada/Central Valley Archive.
 - c. Communicating with UCM Faculty and Students about the current Transformative Agreements and how to publish Open Access

Senate Chair Westerling informed LASC Chair DePrano that the campus may be initiating another round of staff hiring in March. He suggested that LASC could write a memo to Divisional Council about its concerns over the Library's budget. Senate Chair Westerling added that he can share the memo with the EVC/Provost. Senate Chair DePrano agreed with this suggestion.

VII. New Business

GC Chair Hestir asked for further discussion on the suggestion to change Senate committee terms to end on July 1. EDI Chair Sandoval-Hernandez stated that the anti-racism work group needs an additional member.

Action: these topics will be added to a future Divisional Council agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm
Attest: LeRoy Westerling, Senate Chair