

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, November 1, 2022

Attendees: Chair Patti LiWang, Vice Chair Catherine Keske, Christopher Viney, Peggy O’Day, Charlie Eaton, Kevin Mitchell, Michael Scheibner, Holley Moyes, Jason Sexton, Carrie Menke, David Jennings, Jeff Butler, Jessica Trounstine, and Shilpa Khatri.

I. Chair’s Report – Patti LiWang

A. October 20 Meeting with EVC/Provost Camfield

- EVC/Provost confirmed that the Chancellor is aware of the campus Honors program proposal.
- EVC/Provost Camfield will send the Senate a memo requesting the formation of a committee (or working group) to reexamine the campus policy on the establishment of new Schools and Colleges. The committee will also be asked to consider the process on proposals current under review, i.e. Gallo School.
- EVC/Provost Camfield is speaking to VPAP Hansford about the delays in hiring research staff including technicians and postdocs.
- EVC/Provost Camfield is working on a proposal for the establishment of a Center for Research, Equity, Anti-Racism, and Transformative Engagement (CREATE).

B. October 26 Academic Council Meeting

- UC is negotiating with three unions representing TAs, GSRs, and postdocs. Updates on a potential strike would be issued by next week. The systemwide Senate is asking campuses to speak with their administrative leaders for updates and information.
- UC Riverside is implementing Oracle and their Senate Vice-Chair was appointed as the “czar” to oversee the implementation process. UC Riverside is aware of the problems experienced by UC Merced and UC San Diego.
- Chair of the Board of Regents Leib showed a positive interest in in UC Merced and was particularly impressed with our large percentage of Pell Grants students, and the large percentage of our undergraduates who go on to attend graduate school.
- UCPB has a hiring report for faculty. Senate Chair LiWang stated that the report indicates that the number of faculty hires have increased over the past 10 years by 18% but administrative hires have increased by over 100%.
- UCLA and another UC campus are launching a Faculty Rebuilding Initiative to address low faculty morale and to rebuild faculty research programs after the COVID-19 pandemic. The EVC/Provosts of these campuses are providing funding for these initiatives. Part of the plan is to offer teaching releases and more sabbatical credits to help faculty get their research programs back on track.

This led to a brief discussion by DivCo on new faculty hiring at UC Merced. A DivCo member asked if the campus is hiring new faculty for next year. The CAPRA chair replied that CAPRA recently received copies of memos from the EVC/Provost to School Deans in which he authorized several faculty searches. However, the EVC/Provost clarified to CAPRA that those are replacement searches. He also informed CAPRA that moving forward, all faculty FTE lines will be requested through a campus call process separate from the campus budget call.

With regard to the other UC campuses' initiatives to rebuild faculty research programs, the CoR chair informed DivCo members that Interim VPAP Hansford consulted with CoR on October 1. On behalf of EVC/Provost Camfield, Interim VPAP Hansford requested that CoR draft a brief proposal on how they would allocate COVID mitigation funds, as the EVC/Provost may potentially provide these funds to the Senate. The amount is unknown at this time. Interim VPAP Hansford stated that the EVC/Provost may provide the funding if he approves of CoR's draft proposal. CoR's draft proposal was submitted to the Interim VPAP on October 28.

A DivCo member was encouraged that UC Merced is thinking of COVID mitigation. However, he pointed out that some problems on campus, such as Oracle and the building closures, pre-date the pandemic and asked if these obstacles would be included in a potential faculty rebuilding initiative.

With regard to the potential strike of graduate students/post-docs, a DivCo member agreed that DivCo should not be involved, however, the committee should anticipate some pressure from the administration to comment. He added that the potential strike would be open-ended which makes it unique from strikes over the last 10 years.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's Agenda
- B. October 18 Meeting Minutes
- C. CAPRA's revised survey to department chairs about staffing and CAPRA's memo to the School deans. (Prior to this meeting, CAPRA revised the survey to incorporate comments from a DivCo member.)

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. CAPRA Updates – Chair Mitchell

CAPRA Chair Mitchell informed DivCo members that he spoke with CoR Chair Sexton about climate research funds. VCORED Wilson is proposing to create an institute comprised of three new centers that would administer the climate research funds that UC Merced is receiving (\$18 million). CAPRA Chair Mitchell and CoR Chair Sexton suggest that VCORED Wilson send a memo to DivCo with an explanation of how she proposes to establish the institute and centers and allocate the climate research funds. It is important for DivCo to be consulted on this so their feedback can be provided to VCORED Wilson in a timely manner. DivCo should be allowed to provide feedback before the center directors are appointed. CAPRA Chair Mitchell emphasized the need to move quickly, because the state legislature is moving quickly on the allocation of the funds to UC Merced. CAPRA Chair Mitchell also suggested that the proposal that is ultimately submitted by VCORED Wilson should be reviewed by the following DivCo members: Senate Chair, CAPRA Chair, CoR Chair, and possibly the Senate Vice-Chair and the GC Chair.

Action: DivCo will send a memo to VCORED to request that she provide details regarding the Climate Institute.

UGC Chair Moyes stated that FACS sent a memo to VCORED Wilson outlining similar concerns that CAPRA Chair Mitchell just mentioned. She is not authorized to share the memo, but she recommends that FACS representatives be invited to a future DivCo meeting.

Action: FACS Chair Dawson will be invited to attend a future DivCo meeting (note, post-meeting: FACS Chair is confirmed to visit on November 15)

IV. CoR Updates – Chair Sexton

CoR Chair Sexton informed DivCo that CoR is finalizing the Call for Proposals for the annual Senate faculty grants competition and the Call for Proposals for an instrumentation grants competition.

CoR members finished reviewing former Interim VCPRED Zatz’s document listing UC Merced’s areas of research strength. The document needs to be reviewed by DivCo before Dr. Zatz sends it to the Department Chairs and School Executive Committee Chairs. The list of areas of research strength is intended to aid campus leaders when they speak to external audiences. Senate Executive Director Paul stated that she will submit the list to DivCo members after today’s meeting.

Action: The document was sent to DivCo members on November 1 for review as a consent calendar item. The deadline for DivCo’s comments in November 14.

CoR Chair Sexton then briefly repeated his earlier announcement about CoR submitting a draft proposal to Interim VPAP Hansford per his request, on allocating potential COVID mitigation funds.

V. Campus Review Items

- A. **Interim Procedure on Assurance of Laboratory Safety Compliance – CoR Chair Sexton**
The interim procedure was distributed to Senate and School Executive Committee on August 26. It applies to all Principal Investigators and anyone working in a UC Merced laboratory. The purpose of this procedure is to assure a healthy and safe working environment in UC Merced laboratories for all members of the campus community by outlining minimum safety procedural requirements. This procedure also establishes procedural requirements for preventing and correcting deficiencies including issues of non-compliance.

Comments received from the following committees were hyperlinked on today’s agenda:

- CoR
- CRE
- FWAF
- SNS EC
- SNS EC Member

CoR Chair Sexton briefly summarized the procedure and CoR’s memo. A DivCo member pointed out that the procedure places nearly all the responsibility on faculty PIs and not on EH&S. EH&S should have some responsibility for supporting faculty and labs. Another DivCo member suggested that new faculty would benefit from an orientation on EH&S requirements and procedures, such as lab inspections. Another DivCo member stated that it is EH&S’s responsibility to manage the chemical inventory. Any errors in the inventory can cause problems for faculty when in fact it is the purview of EH&S.

Action: The Senate’s comments will be transmitted to EH&S and ORED.

B. Proposal for the Establishment of a Philosophy Department¹ – CAPRA Chair Mitchell

Comments received from the following committees were hyperlinked on today’s agenda:

Comments Received:

- CAP
- CAPRA
- CRE
- GC
- LASC
- UGC

CAPRA Chair Mitchell stated that comments from Senate committees on the proposal were generally positive and that the proposal was well-written. CAPRA’s memo did note that the proposal appears to be resource-neutral and that the committee’s endorsement is not an approval nor a disapproval of the future faculty FTE lines that Philosophy will need. CAPRA emphasized that requests for faculty FTE lines must be submitted through the normal campus process. LASC’s memo recommended that the potential costs imposed by growing a Department of Philosophy should be factored into longer-term strategic planning for the Library. CRE offered comments on the proposed Bylaws vis-à-vis the APM. GC questioned whether the campus has a current policy for circumstances mentioned in the proposal whereby a faculty member could have their departmental membership revoked. A DivCo member pointed out that that is the same procedure that is currently contained in the CIS department bylaws.

DivCo members wondered whether their approval of the Philosophy proposal would mean approval of the proposed Philosophy bylaws.

A DivCo member made a motion that DivCo endorse the Philosophy proposal but add a provision that requests that the proposers address comments and work with CRE to ensure the proposed Philosophy Bylaws are compliant with the APM.

Action: DivCo members approved the motion. The Senate’s comments will be transmitted to SSHA Dean Gilger.

VI. Consultation with VCORED Wilson

VCORED Wilson introduced herself to DivCo members. She stated that she wants to disperse the climate research funds quickly so faculty can make use of the funds and make an impact for the state. She also asks faculty to contact her with ideas on innovation and economic development in addition to research. VCORED Wilson is aware of the problems caused by the campus financial systems but pointed out that those issues are not under ORED.

CoR Chair Sexton asked VCORED Wilson if she would send DivCo a memo that articulates her plan for allocating the climate research funds across campus.

VCORED Wilson acknowledged that only a certain proportion of the faculty will be able to take advantage of the funds as they are for climate research. However, moving forward, she wants to think collectively beyond the climate funds. She also wants to forge more connections between ORED,

¹ Recusal: FWF Chair Jennings

program managers, and directors and have white papers and workshops to discuss what the campus can achieve in the next few years given our campus research expertise.

A DivCo member asked VCORED Wilson why the decision was made to create centers rather than an ORU. VCORED Wilson replied that those decisions were made as a result of feedback received from faculty, the Chancellor, and former VCORED Zatz. A DivCo member informed VCORED Wilson that many faculty were unaware of the campus town hall on climate funding. VCORED Wilson responded that only faculty with current climate grant funding were invited by former VCORED Zatz. However, she hears the faculty's request for consultation and inclusiveness, and plans to incorporate more consultation in the future.

VCORED Wilson informed DivCo that she will send a draft Request for Proposals to DivCo for review before sending a final version to the campus in December.

VII. Consultation with NS Dean Dumont and Dr. Vener

Dean Dumont and Dr. Vener updated DivCo on the medical education program. Prior to this meeting, Dean Dumont submitted materials for DivCo's review.

Dean Dumont summarized that under AB 89, \$15 million per year was provided through permanent state appropriations to 1) support a collaboration between UCSF, UCSF-Fresno, and UC Merced to offer the SJV PRIME Program (now renamed SVJ PRIME+) and 2) pursue adding UC Merced a regional campus of UCSF as a 1st step toward pursuing an independent medical school.

The roles of UC Merced and UCSF Fresno are as follows:

UC Merced

- award BS degrees that prepare students for the SVJ PRIME+ MD Program
- deliver Years 1-2 of a modified UCSF medical curriculum (F1)
- expand pre-health preparation for all undergraduate students

UCSF Fresno

- deliver Years 3-4 of a modified UCSF medical curriculum (F2)
- continue to offer residency and fellowship training
- work with local hospital and clinics to expand local residency experiences
- increase retention of residents as practicing MDs in the Valley above the current 50%

Dean Dumont then summarized the work of the various workstreams. The Outreach workstream reports that as of October 28, 541 applications were started, 41 were completed, and 12 applicants will ultimately be accepted.

Dr. Vener then summarized the F1 workstream (F1 refers to years 1-2 of a modified UCSF medical curriculum). Dean Dumont stated that she is working on gathering financial aid opportunities that already exist on campus and offering them to program applicants to encourage them to accept. A DivCo member asked if the medical education program can require that students to have taken advanced placement chemistry and math so they are well positioned to succeed once they are in the program. Dean Dumont responded that she will contact Admissions about this.

AFAC Chair Eaton noticed the absence of AFAC consultation in the workstream documents and asked Dean Dumont to include this so that AFAC is clear on what they can expect.

A DivCo member asked about contingency planning if the new building on campus is not ready in a timely manner. Dean Dumont responded that she is working with the Chancellor on this, and the building is a priority for him.

A DivCo member encouraged Dean Dumont and Dr. Vener to work with the School academic advisors.

Dean Dumont asked for DivCo's input on communicating with faculty about the medical education program.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Attest: Patti LiWang, Senate Chair