

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, January 23, 2023

Attendees: Chair Patti LiWang, Vice Chair Catherine Keske, Christopher Viney, Sean Malloy, Sarah Depaoli, Charlie Eaton, Kevin Mitchell, Michael Scheibner, Holley Moyes, Jason Sexton, David Jennings, Jeff Butler, Jessica Trounstine, and Shilpa Khatri.

I. Chair’s Report – Patti LiWang

A. Divisions’ Chairs Meeting with Chair Cochran (Jan 4, 2023)

- Discussion about attestation forms for faculty who withheld labor during the strike.
- Timesheets for GSRs and TAs coming soon.
- The UCLA Division chair suggested that the financial implications of the strike should not just be addressed through UCLA’s academic budget; rather, the chair believed that their whole campus budget should be examined to find funding.
- Discussion about the increase of student credit hours per TA. The TAs are receiving an immediate raise, another raise in October 2023, and a larger one in October 2024.
- Academic Council will be held this week and Senate Chair LiWang will have more updates for DivCo after that meeting.

B. Deans’ Council (Jan 17, 2023)

The main topic of discussion was the future of graduate education and how the campus will fund it. The campus will have to reduce the size of graduate programs, starting with the incoming classes. Other UC campuses are establishing task forces with Senate and administrative representation to discuss these challenges. Senate Chair LiWang stated that EVC/Provost Camfield does not want to create a new committee and prefers to use the existing Senate committee structure to hold these conversations.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Today’s Agenda

B. December 6 Meeting Minutes

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. CAPRA Report – CAPRA Chair Kevin Mitchell

- UCPB has formed an ad hoc subcommittee (of which CAPRA Chair Mitchell is a member) to discuss the systemwide implications for the resolution of the graduate student strike and the financial implications for the university. CAPRA Chair Mitchell will keep Divisional Council updated.
- The Governor submitted his initial budget and it includes a 5% increase for the UC. It is anticipated that some of that increased will go to graduate student funding but it is also likely that there will be a 4.5% increase to faculty salaries. However, it is not yet known whether the raise will be applied to faculty base salaries or just to the scales.
- In his consultation with CAPRA at their recent meeting, EVC/Provost Camfield proposed utilizing Divisional Council as the main committee he will work with as the campus addresses the challenges and financial implications of the strike. He does not wish to create a new committee for this purpose. EVC/Provost Camfield also informed CAPRA that UC President

Drake might be thinking of providing funding from UCOP to UC Merced related to financial challenges caused by the new contracts. This is not confirmed. There is also no confirmation of the amount, timeline, or allocation method.

- EVC/Provost Camfield shared with CAPRA that the university will provide funding to pre-tenure faculty to help with the increased costs of GSRs. This would apply to pre-tenure faculty who are still using their start-up funds and to pre-tenure faculty who have used up their start-up funds and are paying their GSRs off their grants.

IV. EDI Report – EDI Chair Carrie Menke

Prior to this meeting, EDI Chair Menke distributed to Divisional Council members a document containing the topics of her report today.

EDI Chair Menke asked Divisional Council for the most effective way to obtain historical data from the administration regarding acceleration awarded to/denied to faculty? She explained that EDI asked the previous and current VPAPs and the information is not forthcoming. Former VPAP Matlock attended an EDI meeting in the last academic year and shared acceleration data but did not provide it in writing. Divisional Council members agreed that EDI should draft a memo requesting this information.

Action: EDI will draft a memo with a request for data on accelerations and will send to Divisional Council for review. Divisional Council will consider whether to endorse the memo and transmit to the EVC/Provost.

EDI Chair Menke also pointed out the lack of communication between the School Executive Committee chairs and Divisional Council. She asked how this can be improved. Senate Executive Director Paul explained that in a previous academic year, Divisional Council discussed whether to include School Executive Committee chairs in their memberships, but the Council members decided against it. At-Large Member Trounstine added that one of the reasons that that year's Divisional Council membership decided not to include School Executive Committee chairs is that membership in Divisional Council would have given the Executive Committee chairs two votes (and two vetoes): one at the School level and another at the Senate/university level. Divisional Council members in today's meetings suggested inviting the School Executive Committee chairs to Divisional Council meetings as guests. Senate Vice Chair Keske pointed out that it is important to consider the curricular roles of Executive Committees: in one School, there is a Curriculum Committee separate from the School Executive Committee. In response to a Divisional Council member's question, Senate Executive Director Paul stated that UC Riverside, UC San Francisco, and UC Davis include School Executive Committee chairs in their Divisional Council memberships.

V. Campus Review Items – UGC Chair Holley Moyes

A. Proposal for a B.S. Degree in Chemical Engineering (effective Fall 2024)

The Proposal for a Chemical Engineering B.S. was reviewed by the Senate and the Administration. All comments are appended to UGC's memo and linked on today's agenda.

UGC Chair Moyes briefly summarized UGC's memo and those of other Senate committees and VPDUE Frey. UGC endorsed the proposal contingent upon the proposers addressing comments raised by the Senate. One of the comments was that students will already be in their third year before they finish their chemistry courses and begin taking ChE-focused coursework. Another concern is the required summer course in between years 3 and 4 which would negatively impact students who wish to take on an internship. Enrollment projections and student demand were other issues raised by Senate committees.

AFAC Chair Eaton stated that in addition to predicted enrollment of this proposed major, AFAC wished to know how the proposed major would affect overall campus enrollment. He asked for this information but did not receive it. Specifically, what is the net of students it would take from other majors? He pointed out that this information is needed by AFAC when reviewing all new major proposals and in the absence of this information, AFAC may find it difficult to support the proposals. He also mentioned that a proposal that claims to be resource-neutral is not entirely plausible and it places pressure on faculty to do more with less.

Action: AFAC Chair Eaton and UGC Chair Moyes will meet about these issues.

Action: DivCo will transmit UGC's recommendation to the administration. The program will be asked to address the comments raised by the Senate prior to implementing the major.

B. Proposal for a B.S. Degree in Biochemical and Biomolecular Engineering (effective Fall 2024)

The Proposal for a Biochemical and Biomolecular Engineering B.S. was reviewed by the Senate and the Administration. All comments are appended to UGC's memo which were linked on today's agenda.

UGC did not endorse the proposal but rather recommended that the proposers address the comments raised by reviewers.

One of UGC's main concerns is that the proposed academic plan is too rigid and heavy and does not provide students with flexibility on electives. UGC was also concerned how transfer students would be able to satisfy degree requirements in two years. UGC wondered whether this program merits a new major rather than a new BIOE emphasis track. UGC also noted that the proposal did not include a statement of the negative impact on other departments.

Action: The program will be invited to address the comments raised by reviewers.

C. Proposal for an Aerospace Engineering Minor (effective Fall 2024)

The Proposal for an Aerospace Minor was review by the Senate and the Administration. All comments are appended to UGC's memo which were linked on today's agenda.

UGC endorsed the proposal contingent upon the proposers addressing comments raised by the Senate and the Administration.

UGC did recommend that the program review their PLOs because the PLOs are too similar to those of Mechanical Engineering. CAPRA stated in their memo that they cannot weigh the merits of the resources versus the benefits without a clearer picture of the benefits. In particular, what is the expected enrollment in the Aerospace Engineering courses? What is the expected enrollment in the minor? CAPRA also noted that the minor would not substantially increase the number of students coming to UC Merced in addition to the fact that it would require resources. The proposed minor does not have a corresponding major so it needs more faculty to teach. The combination of more faculty time plus no new students being admitted is problematic.

In response to Divisional Council members' questions, Senate Executive Director Paul clarified that per policy, if the Senate approves a new major or minor, the EVC/Provost and Chancellor must then approve the resources before they can implement the new program. She also suggested that the VPDUE may wish to consult with the EVC/Provost on resources.

Divisional Council members agreed that they do not support the minor proposal at the present time. Council members wondered if the School of Engineering Executive Committee was consulted by the proposers about the resource implications, specifically, about the proposed new faculty lines.

Action: DivCo will send a memo to the administration. The memo will note that the proposal seems acceptable from a curricular perspective, but the resources do not seem adequate.

VI. Other Business

GC Chair Scheibner confirmed that graduate admissions letters have not yet gone out given that the official pay scales have not been announced by UCOP. CCGA met on January 4 to discuss the future of graduate education. GC Chair Scheibner will have updates for Divisional Council after CCGA's next meeting. He suggested that the campus discuss how to leverage the system. Hybrid programs (undergraduate and graduate) may become more relevant. GC Chair Scheibner also advocated for lobbying of the state government and federal funding agencies. If grant funding does not increase and if funding agencies do not understand faculty's challenges, faculty will be in a very difficult situation. A Divisional Council member stated that she has specific questions about her grants and asked if Graduate Division or Sponsored Projects will be distributing guidance to the campus. GC Chair Scheibner replied that UCOP should be providing advice but the information flow has been minimal. A Divisional Council member suggested that the VCR and/or the VPDGE should hold campus town halls. Graduate groups are proceeding with admission plans based on information they have now, because admissions are happening now.

UGC Chair Moyes informed Divisional Council that UGC is working with the VPDUE and UROC on a call for proposals to allocate UGC's portion of the Senate's share of the campus MacKenzie Scott gift. Senate Executive Director Paul confirmed that the amount of funds was previously approved by Divisional Council for all the relevant committees. EVC/Provost office staff will assist with the financial transactions.

Action: Fatima Paul will share information about the practice at other campuses.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Attest: Patti LiWang, Senate Chair