

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, May 11, 2023

Attendees: Chair Patti LiWang, Vice Chair Holley Moyes, Christopher Viney, Peggy O’Day, Teamrat Ghezzehei, Kevin Mitchell, Jason Sexton, Sarah Depaoli, Heather Bortfeld, Michael Scheibner, Charlie Eaton, David Jennings, Shilpa Khatri, and Jessica Trounstine.

I. Chair’s Report – Patti LiWang

A. Updates from the Gallo Facilitation

Chair LiWang reported that participants and facilitators discussed the importance of confidentiality and trust. There was some contention, as some attendees did not feel comfortable expressing their opinions and the facilitators had to frequently remind attendees of the spirit of community. Some attendees were concerned about the campus’s financial challenges and their impact on the faculty. CAPRA Chair Mitchell stated that it is the beginning of a reboot of the process and he hopes the momentum can continue.

B. May 15 Meeting of the Division

Chair LiWang announced that committee chair reports will not be included on the agenda due to the plethora of other critical discussion topics. Per the usual Senate practice, each standing Senate committee will draft an annual report which will be shared with the campus in early fall.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Today’s Agenda

B. May 1 Meeting Minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Vice-Chair’s Report – Holley Moyes

A. Proposal for a Campus Honors Program

Senate Vice Chair Moyes explained that in her previous role as UGC chair, she received feedback that the original proposed rollout of over 100 students in the campus honors program was too aggressive. She met with the School deans who were concerned about their faculty’s workload. She later proposed a pilot rollout effective fall 2024 with only 30-60 students. That would give the program time to create a website and do curriculum planning. The revised honors program proposal was shared with the department chairs who were invited to be involved in the pilot. Senate Vice Chair Moyes announced that as of today, 11 department chairs have confirmed their desire to be part of the fall 2024 pilot.

Senate Vice Chair Moyes stated that if Divisional Council views the revised honors program proposal positively, she will formally submit the proposal to the School deans and the program will be put to a faculty vote. She hopes the proposal will be issued to the faculty for a vote before May 31. If a vote were to occur after this date, the rollout will be delayed.

She added that EVC/Provost Camfield suggested allocating one TA or TF to each School to help develop the honors program.

A Divisional Council member asked what happens when a student is admitted to the honors program but later switches to a different major that is not connected to the honors program. Senate Vice Chair Moyes replied that the student can still finish the program. The program could work with the faculty members in the department to possibly do an independent study or lab project with the student.

Action: Divisional Council voted unanimously to endorse the Honors Proposal. Senate Vice Chair Moyes abstained from the voting. Moyes invited Senate committees to draft endorsement memos if they wish, and she will ensure the memos are included in the documentation that will be reviewed by all Senate faculty.

IV. Update on Medication Education – Dean Dumont and Dr. Vener

The slide deck was distributed to Divisional Council on May 5 and was linked on today’s agenda.

Achievements to Date:

- UC Merced licensed as branch medical campus of UCSF School of Medicine
- Outreach in SJV
- Developed process for provisional admission to UCSF SOM
- Admitted first UC Merced undergraduates with provisional admission to UCSF SOM
- Launched Foundations 1 Talent Workstream

With regard to timeline:

- In 2023, the first combined BS/MD SJV PRIME+ class enters UC Merced Baccalaureate program
- In 2027, the first class enters the UCSF School of Medicine Regional Campus at UC Merced. Follows UCSF Bridges Foundations 1 Curriculum delivered at UC Merced
- In 2029, the first class transitions to the UCSF School of Medicine Regional Campus at UCSF Fresno. Follows UCSF Bridges Foundations 2 and Career Launch Curriculum delivered at Fresno
- By 2031, the first class graduates with MD degree.

UCSF SOM Bridges Curriculum:

- Existing Bachelor of Science Degrees
- Foundations 1: Basic Science + clinical skills + additional seminars + field studies on health care needs in the SJV
- Foundations 2: Core and advanced supervised experiences in hospitals & clinics providing care to patients in the SJV+ exploring career options + conducting research (6-12 months)

Dr. Vener then briefly discussed application metrics and the demographics of the SJV Prime + first 15 student cohort.

Foundations 1 (F1) Workstream – Guiding Principles:

- Promote engagement through small group instruction
- Equivalency to main campus (LCME)
- Educational excellence
- Invest in faculty and staff development

- Highlight unique strengths/challenges of SJV
- Faculty may take on multiple roles
- Longitudinal coordination / approach
- EJIE emphasis
- Right sized now -> able to scale up in future

Foundations 1 (F1) Workstream – Recommendations

Three Types of Faculty for Delivering F1:

- Academic Teaching Faculty
- Clinical Teaching Faculty
- Research Faculty
 - All are fully funded by the SJV PRIME+ Legislative Allocation
 - These are not supported by the campus's existing budget
 - Only Academic Teaching faculty are new lines
 - Clinical and Research faculty will be invited to participate, and be remunerated, as a fraction of their time

Academic Teaching Faculty:

- Primary role is medical education
- Collaboration and cross train within the medical education team
- Demonstrated interest/experience in med ed
- Academic teaching faculty are the only new lines
- Faculty development plan:
 - Immersion in UCSF F1, including teaching and course admin, mentoring by element leads
 - Faculty development lead hired
 - UCSF Academy of Medical Educators, etc

Clinical Teaching Faculty:

- Clinically active
- Demonstrated interest/experience in medical education
- Remunerated as a fraction of their time

Research Faculty:

- Experience in research, scholarship, and mentorship
- Remunerated as a fraction of their time
- Not new research faculty lines

Next steps:

- Continued Engagement with UC Merced Academic Senate.
 - Provide regular updates to DivCo, UGC, GC, AFAC, CAPRA
 - Collaborate with the Senate in hiring Academic and Clinical Teaching Faculty

- Partner with the Senate to raise awareness of the medical education initiative on campus

In response to a Divisional Council member’s question about curriculum, Dean Dumont confirmed that at least for the next decade or so, UC Merced faculty will be teaching the UCSF curriculum. The courses belong to UCSF and the students in the program will receive their medical degrees from UCSF.

A Divisional Council member asked if there is a requirement that the students in the program must practice medicine in the region after they receive their medical degrees. Dr. Vener responded that there is no such requirement. Dean Dumont pointed out that the students are young and not yet ready to commit to those long-term plans. However, if they receive scholarships whose terms dictate that they must practice medicine in underserved areas, the Valley qualifies as one of those areas, and students with those types of scholarships must abide by those terms.

A Divisional Council member asked about anticipated attrition. Dr. Vener responded that the program leaders will help students as much as they can with classes, etc., however, students must look inward and decide whether medical school is something they truly wish to commit to. That is not something the program can help them with as it is a personal decision. She added that any vacated spots in the program will be filled.

GC Chair Scheibner inquired about Senate oversight. He requested that Dr. Vener and Dean Dumont provide a 1-2 page summary of the program that he can share with CCGA together with the slide deck presented in today’s meeting. Dr. Vener and Dean Dumont agreed to do so but pointed out that this is not a BS/MD program.

Action: Dr. Vener and Dean Dumont will provide the requested materials to GC Chair Scheibner.

Senate Chair LiWang requested a more detailed report or summary of the program, such as admissions criteria, data, budget, space, resources, EDI considerations, and faculty hiring. Even though the state legislature is funding the program, the Senate still should have the option to weigh in. CAPRA Chair Mitchell agreed and added that the Senate (including CAPRA) does not wish to be a roadblock in the program’s progress, but it is important for the Senate to review the program’s plans.

Dean Dumont agreed to provide that information to Divisional Council and added that she and Dr. Vener did consult with Senate committees earlier this academic year.

Action: Dr. Vener and Dean Dumont will provide a detailed report/summary containing the aforementioned details to Divisional Council.

V. Program Proposals – UGC Chair Bortfeld

A. SSHA Proposal for a B.S. Degree Program in Public Health

The proposal and comments were linked on today’s agenda.

UGC unanimously approved the proposal with a strong recommendation that the proposers remove the term “emphasis” from the proposal (see the last paragraph on page 1 of UGC’s memo).

UGC Chair Bortfeld summarized the proposal and the Senate committee comments.

Action: Divisional Council voted unanimously to endorse UGC’s approval and to transmit the proposal and associated recommendation to the Administration.

B. SSHA Proposal for B.A. Degree Program & Minor in Environmental Humanities

The proposal and comments were linked on today’s agenda.

UGC approved the proposal with a recommendation that the proposers consider the comments raised by the Senate and the Administration.

UGC Chair Bortfeld briefly summarized the proposal and the Senate committee comments.

Action: Divisional Council voted to endorse UGC’s approval and to transmit the proposal and associated recommendation to the Administration.

C. SNS Proposal for a B.S. Degree Program & Minor in Data Science and Computing

The proposal and comments were linked on today’s agenda.

UGC approved the proposal with a recommendation that the proposers consider the comments raised by the Senate and the Administration.

UGC Chair Bortfeld briefly summarized the proposal and the Senate committee comments. One of the major questions is how this proposed degree program will interact with the proposal from SoE to create a B.A. degree in Data Science and Analytics.

Action: See below.

D. SOE Proposal for a B.A. Degree in Data Science and Analytics

The proposal and comments were linked on today’s agenda.

UGC approved the proposal with a recommendation that the proposers consider the comments raised by the Senate and the Administration.

UGC Chair Bortfeld briefly summarized the proposal and the Senate committee comments.

Divisional Council members discussed the issue surrounding the similar names of the proposed degrees in SoE and SNS. Scholarly identity and marketability are factors to consider, but most importantly, Divisional Council members wished to do what is best for the students and that is to offer degree programs with clear names that will not cause confusion.

Divisional Council members suggested that they provisionally approve both proposed degree programs from SoE and SNS and strongly suggest that the proposers of both programs consult with each other, VPDUE Sarah Frey, and the University Registrar on the name of the programs.

Action: Divisional Council voted unanimously to provisionally endorse the proposed degree programs from both SoE and SNS and to transmit the proposals and associated recommendations to the Administration with the recommendation that the proposers in both Schools work with each other and with VPDUE Frey and the Registrar on the naming issue.

VI. Memo from Molecular & Cell Biology Department Space Committee – CoR Chair Jay Sexton

The MCB department space committee submitted a memo (hyperlinked on today’s agenda) to CoR and FWAf on Research Impediments from Increasing Costs, and Disparities in Costs, of Renovating Research Spaces on Campus.

CoR Chair Sexton summarized the MCB memo. The issue is that uneven costs are being imposed and faculty are expected to cover those costs. This is creating a serious equity issue; in addition, some faculty cannot do their research. The memo suggests that indirect cost returns from faculty federal grants should be used, along with other private and public revenue streams, subsidize (and mitigate cost disparities in) the creation, maintenance and expansion of essential campus research infrastructure.

Action: Due to time constraints, Divisional Council did not take action on the memo. Senate Chair LiWang suggested that this memo could be included in the discussions at this year’s Senate-Administration Governance Retreat. CoR Chair Sexton will communicate Divisional Council’s discussion to CoR members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Attest: Patti LiWang, Senate Chair