

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 2023

Attendees: Chair Patti LiWang, Matt Hibbing, Christopher Viney, Sean Malloy, Marcos Garcia-Ojeda, Kevin Mitchell, Tao Ye, Sarah Depaoli, Michael Scheibner, Heather Bortfeld, Jayson Beaster-Jones, and Shilpa Khatri.

I. Chair's Report – Patti LiWang

- A. Upcoming Senate leadership Interviews with the Candidates for the VC/CFO position
3:00-3:50pm (ADMIN 306 with Zoom option available)
September 14
September 18
September 22

Action: DivCo members Khatri and Mitchell volunteered to serve as moderators for the September 22 interview.

DivCo member Eaton stated that a survey will be issued to faculty on all the VC/CFO candidates. The results of the survey will only be shared with the Chancellor who is the hiring authority.

B. Meeting with UCOP

Senate Chair LiWang informed Divisional Council that she met with UCOP representatives about a variety of issues, one of which was enrollment. Other UC campuses are going into their referral pools which negatively impacts UC Merced's enrollment. UCOP indicated they would like to help UC Merced mitigate the impact. UCOP also praised the 4+1 program which they believe will increase potential students' interest in attending UC Merced.

Senate Vice-Chair Hibbing shared with Divisional Council that according to Interim EVC/Provost Zatz, ACE funding from UCOP is being deployed in a timely manner and faculty should speak to her if they believe that is not the case. With regard to Oracle and the campus financial systems problems, Senate Vice-Chair Hibbing suggested to Interim EVC/Provost Zatz that it would be most efficient to have all the relevant parties in the same room to have discussions to reduce misunderstandings about the various units' purviews. CoR Chair Ye stated that the Oracle Advisory Committee established by Interim VC/CFO Schnier in a previous academic year was unsuccessful because the agendas were set by the administrative representatives on the committee and faculty input was minimal. Senate Vice-Chair Hibbing stated that Interim EVC/Provost Zatz advocates for improved communication between RAs and other relevant staff across campus.

Divisional Council member Khatri reminded Council members of the memo that the Divisional Council subcommittee is writing to go along with CoR's August 28 memo addressed to the administration. CoR's memo includes many details about research infrastructure and Divisional Council's memo will be shorter, more succinct, and will focus on timelines, accountability, and metrics. GC Chair Scheibner agreed that faculty and their graduate students should be focusing on their core missions rather than spending time figuring out financial systems. CoR Chair Ye stated that Interim VC/CFO Schnier and Chief Procurement Officer Meagan Torres attended yesterday's CoR meeting to present a new financial system called LabViva. Interim VC/CFO Schnier asked for

faculty volunteers to test the system. CoR Chair Ye asked Divisional Council if School Executive Committees should be invited to test.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. September 7 Meeting Minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. September 29 Shared Governance Retreat – Chair LiWang and All

The Retreat will take place on Friday, September 29 from 8:30-5:00pm in ADMIN 306.

Items proposed by AFAC Chair Eaton:

- Addressing the Faculty Experience Survey results that faculty overwhelmingly do not feel collaboratively involved in top administration decision making that affects them (see below).
- Improving campus financial administration (balance account reporting, purchasing systems, payroll, and student financial aid)
- Campus financial planning for Senate faculty appointment growth commensurate with enrollment growth, reversing the decline in total Senate faculty from 290 in Fall 2021 to 299 in Fall 2023.
- Organizational and curricular planning for the number, size, and type of schools / divisions and majors that would best serve our enrollment and intellectual goals. To inform deliberation regarding any proposed SSHA partitions / Gallo creations, I'd like to see and discuss information on the number/ type / organization of schools / divisions at other UCs, especially UCSB and UCSC as most comparable to our target size.

Senate Vice Chair-Hibbing suggested there may be a communication disconnect. The administration is not advocating for more new majors without appropriate coordination. He agreed that the governance retreat would be a good opportunity to resolve this confusion. FWAFF Chair Beaster-Jones pointed out that the campus lacks sufficient support for existing majors and existing enrollment, and some faculty are therefore reluctant to agree to new programs.

Divisional Council member Khatri asked about the format of the governance retreat. Council members agreed that breakout sessions and action items would be valuable. Member Khatri suggested that the last 30 minutes of the retreat should be spent documenting action items.

AFAC Chair Eaton recommended a short, curated presentation jointly delivered by the administration and the Senate leadership on the faculty experience survey. CAPRA Chair Mitchell suggested that the retreat discussion should also include the importance of fostering communication and an agreement on goals and objectives for Senate committees and the administration for this year. CRE Chair and Parliamentarian Viney suggested that retreat attendees should have a discussion in May to assess whether the goals set in fall 2023 were achieved. GC Chair Scheibner suggested a dashboard for faculty to use so they can see the progress of their requests and complaints. Faculty send memos, but often do not receive a response. Faculty also have survey fatigue.

Action: Divisional Council members agreed on the following with regard to the governance retreat:

- Topics

- faculty morale and experience survey
- what do faculty and the campus need from accounting systems?
- enrollment growth clarity and faculty hiring
- graduate student funding

- Format
 - Short presentations co-delivered by Senate and administration leadership
 - Break out sessions that include a mix of Senate and administration members. These groups should be arranged in advance of the retreat.

IV. **Graduate Council’s Policy for the Establishment of Hybrid Undergraduate/Graduate Programs – GC Chair Scheibner**

The GC memo was linked on today’s agenda and includes:

- Policy
- Procedures (tracked changes version)
- Procedures (clean copy version)

All materials are available as separate files and were linked on today’s agenda.

GC Chair Scheibner summarized GC’s proposed policy and the input received from AFAC, UGC, the VPDGE and the VPDUE. He explained the rationale for double counting courses in response to questions from various reviewers. The revised GC policy now states that undergraduate students can take graduate courses and double count them rather than using undergraduate courses towards a graduate degree. The hope is that with this policy, the campus may enroll more undergraduate students as UC Merced will be more attractive to them. UC Merced could also serve as a model for the other UCs.

Action: Senate Executive Director Paul will transmit GC’s proposed policy to the EVC/P, Senate committees (including LASC) and the School Executive Committees for review.

V. **Other Business**

Divisional Council member Khatri asked for the status on the discussion on inviting School Executive Committee chairs to Divisional Council meetings.

School Executive Committees are Senate bodies, but with separate Bylaws and a separate appointment process. Divisional Council members suggested that School Executive Committee chairs be invited to attend Council meetings as consultants only. They will not be ex-officio Divisional Council members nor will they be voting members.

Action: Divisional Council voted to agree to invite School Executive Committee Chairs – or their designees – to attend Divisional Council meetings as consultants.

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

Attest: Patti LiWang, Senate Chair