

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024

Attendees: Chair Matt Hibbing, Vice Chair Kevin Mitchell, Michael Scheibner, Michael Findlater, Muey Saeturn, Sarah Depaoli, Shilpa Khatri, Marcos Garcia-Ojeda, Christopher Viney, Kara McCloskey, Jayson Beaster-Jones, Sean Malloy, Tao Ye, Alexander Petersen.

I. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz Updates

Interim EVC/Provost Zatz provided the following updates to Divisional Council:

- SNS Dean Dumont will begin her new role as EVC/Provost on March 1st assuming the interim Dean of SNS is appointed by that time. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz is currently working with SNS Dean Dumont on a few issues and there will be an overlap of approximately one month in between Interim EVC/Provost Zatz leaving the role and SNS Dean Dumont's appointment.
- 78 applications have been received for the permanent VPDUE position and the deadline for applying was January 16. 78 applications have also been received for the SSHA Dean position which closed on January 12. 54 applications have been received for the position of CREATEs Executive Director. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz will review applications for the role of the interim SNS Dean in conjunction with SNS Dean Dumont.
- Financial Management Task Force is progressing well.
- The TAS Work Group will submit an interim report by March 15.
- Interim EVC/Provost Zatz and the administration are working on an issue about graduate students and time sheets. If graduate students change from GSR to TAs, PIs' grants will continue being charged until the change is made. Payroll and APO are working to resolve this issue. Senate Chair Hibbing stated that Divisional Council will also contact VPDGE Hratchian.

GC Chair Scheibner mentioned upcoming systemwide Congresses, including one on undergraduate education on January 29 and another on AI. He asked Interim EVC/Provost Zatz if UC Merced will have representation at those Congresses. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz confirmed that she, the school Deans, CIO Dugan, VCR Wilson, and VPDGE Hratchian will participate.

II. Chair's Report – Matt Hibbing

- A. Chair Hibbing welcomed new Divisional Council member Michael Findlater who serves as Chair of CAPRA in Spring 2024.
- B. Divisional Council Priorities for Spring 2024
 - Continue to engage with the administration on campus budget calls.
 - Financial Management Task Force.
 - SSHA Restructuring (see below).
- C. December and January Meetings regarding SSHA Restructure

Before the winter break, Chair Hibbing and Vice Chair Mitchell met with various stakeholders in the SSHA restructuring effort and plan to meet with additional ones. Stakeholders included the lead of the Gallo group, the Chair of the Department of Economics and Business Management, the Chair of the SSHA Executive Committee, and the interim Dean of SSHA. There appears to be consensus that SSHA should form divisions. There is some disagreement about the departments that were part of

the original Gallo pre-proposal and their future movement. The proposed structure would allow SSHA to tap into Gallo funds to hire additional staff. Chair Hibbing plans to meet with incoming EVC/Provost Dumont about this. Divisional Council members emphasized the need for department level staff and support for the humanities.

D. January 17 Meeting with External Relations regarding: MacKenzie Scott Funds

Chair Hibbing recently met with Vice Chancellor Ed Klotzbier and Associate Vice Chancellor Lisa Pollard in External Relations and discussed a proposal to use the remaining funds from the original \$1 million allocation to the Senate from the MacKenzie Scott gift to the campus to create an endowment that would provide money to the Senate in perpetuity. The Senate has already allocated some of the funds the past two academic years in the form of faculty grants and student fellowships via various Senate committees. Chair Hibbing asked Divisional Council for their input on the endowment idea. One Council member responded that she is unsure whether the endowment is a good idea until she knows the annual return. Chair Hibbing replied that External Relations will provide more information.

E. Senate Elections

Chair Hibbing asked Divisional Council members to encourage their colleagues to nominate themselves and other colleagues for the Senate elections.

III. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. November 30 Minutes
- C. December 14 Minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Update on the Financial Management and Reporting Task Force – Co-Chair Khatri

The Task Force Charge was linked on today's agenda.

Task Force Co-Chair Khatri informed Divisional Council that the Task Force has formed three working groups to address the following specific areas: payroll (including graduate student change overs, staff payroll, and planning for summer salary), inflow (COAs and technical inputting information), and financial reporting improvement and delivery (first phase of fixing financial reports). Co-Chair Khatri recommended to VCR Wilson that this working group conclude its work in May 2024. However, she asked Divisional Council for input on how they want to remain involved moving forward. The Task Force will be able to fix a few issues but not all of them. The administration has asked the Task Force leadership to issue an email to the campus this week with updates. Co-Chair Khatri will need to speak to VCR Wilson to ensure that the email is clear about who is implementing the fixes. Senate Chair Hibbing stated that he would prefer the Task Force not send regular emails if there are no concrete improvements to report. His preference is to send fewer communications that articulate specific improvements. He will recommend this to the administration.

V. Update on the BOARS Area H Requirement – AFAC Chair/BOARS Rep. Eaton

This was discussed at the November 30 Divisional Council meeting and at the BOARS December 1 meeting. AFAC's November 30 memo to BOARS was linked on today's agenda.

Action: Due to the AFAC Chair's absence from today's meeting, this item was not discussed by Divisional Council. Chair Hibbing will receive a debrief from the AFAC Chair at a later time.

VI. Graduate Council's Revised Policy for the Establishment of Hybrid Undergraduate/Graduate Programs – GC Chair Scheibner

The policy was discussed at the September 14 Divisional Council meeting and revised by GC to consider feedback from Divisional Council and various committees. The following documents were linked on today's agenda: GC's memo, the revised policy, and the procedures.

GC Chair Scheibner summarized the revised policy and the various Senate committee comments:

- CoR and LASC highlighted that the proposals should consider the research infrastructure needs and impacts on university public goods.
- The Interim EVC/Provost and CAPRA were concerned about the double counting of units. GC Chair Scheibner stated that the proposal has been revised to add clarifying language. Secondly, GC added that HDPs need to establish a minimum threshold of upper-division units successfully completed before students can enroll in graduate level courses.
- The ALO and the Interim EVC/Provost requested clarification on the terminology of HDP. GC agreed that this terminology is confusing; however, it is the official term included in the UC Compendium.
- The Interim EVC/Provost noted that, to her knowledge, the standards for borrowing and repayment rates for graduate students are not currently available and expressed that this be considered by proposers of HDP. GC Chair Scheibner explained that the proposal has been revised to include a footnote to highlight that proposals of HDP programs should reasonably demonstrate effort to attain borrowing levels and repayment rates for graduate students in the absence of a standard at the UC Merced level.
- The SoE Executive Committee included recommendations regarding budgetary components. While GC acknowledged the Executive Committee's concerns, GC members believed this to be an issue that needs to be addressed separately from the proposed policy. GC will consult with CAPRA and/or the administration for consideration.
- The ALO suggested that HDP proposals consult with the Assessment Office early in the proposal development phase to resolve any issues related to Western Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), and to determine if substantive change review is needed. The proposal has been modified to include consultation with ALO and the Substantive Change Coordinator is recommended.

A Divisional Council member asked for clarification about the double counting issue and expressed concern that the revised proposal did not fully address this.

Action: Divisional Council endorsed the proposed policy (12 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstention). The Council's memo will include language about double counting concerns.

VII. Presentation on Athletics and NCAA Membership – David Dunham, Executive Director, Recreation and Athletics

Executive Director Dunham and a group of student athletes attended today's meeting to update Divisional Council on the NCAA membership effort.

Executive Director Dunham explained that UC Merced is currently a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). This association includes 300, primarily private faith-based institutions. Now that UC Merced has grown to 12 sports, the campus agreed it was time to formally apply for membership in the NCAA Division II. This was the plan since 2011 when UC Merced first had athletics.

Executive Director Dunham informed Divisional Council that Division II focuses on the balance between academics and athletics. They limit the number of countable hours for student athletes to 20 hours so they can continue to thrive as students. Division II also requires the students to engage in community and campus service. The conference UC Merced has been invited to join consist of the CSU campuses which is easier for travel and reduces missed class time for UC Merced's student athletes. It is also better for the campus and local community because they are more familiar with the CSUs which will create natural rivalries and engender more interest in athletics. Membership in Division II will also help recruit new students to UC Merced and increase enrollment. The campus currently has an athletics advisory committee that includes staff, students, and faculty that advises the Chancellor as well as a compliance advisory committee. UC Merced's application to NCAA Division II is due by February 1 and Executive Director Dunham and others on campus have been drafting manuals and handbooks. The next step is for the NCAA to send a consultant to the campus to confirm that the campus is engaging in the activities specified in the application. In June, the NCAA membership committee will decide whether to accept UC Merced as a provisional member. If UC Merced is granted membership, the process is similar to accreditation. It will be a three-year process. In year one UC Merced would still be in the NAIA but by the second year, the campus will be in the NCAA Division II. By the end of the third year, the campus will be full members. UC Merced will have to keep demonstrating that they are reaching various milestones set by the NCAA.

A Divisional Council member asked why the campus is applying for Division II membership and not Division I or Division III. Executive Director Dunham answered that Division I is significantly expensive due to large overhead and the students in that division are essentially already professional athletes. Division II, by contrast, maintains a balance between academics and athletics. Division III is also challenging for logistical reasons. UC Santa Cruz is in Division III and their student athletes have to travel to the east coast for competitions. Division II means that UC Merced's students stay in California for their competitions and compete against public schools (CSUs) and lose minimal class time.

The student athletes who attended today's meeting then each briefly spoke about NCAA Division II membership and its benefits.

Divisional Council members asked about the cost to the campus for NCAA Division II membership. Executive Director Dunham answered that the cost comes from student fees for athletics and recreation and fundraising. He explained that the cost is built into the budget. Additional money will come from increased student enrollment. Another Divisional Council member expressed concern about student athletes receiving their degrees on time. Executive Director Dunham reiterated the NCAA Division II 20-hour rule limit so students can focus on academics. His department is also drafting a missed class policy for competition travel which he will bring to Divisional Council. Also, the campus has a peer learning program whereby

successful students in various majors work with student athletes on their studies. Executive Director Dunham added that the mid-semester grade intervention system has also been quite successful in ensuring that student athletes are on track. A Divisional Council member stated that the mid-semester grade intervention system needs to be communicated to the faculty. Executive Director Dunham responded that he would like to partner with faculty on these check points.

Senate Chair Hibbing pointed out that this is the first time that Divisional Council has been consulted substantively on UC Merced's application to NCAA Division II. He asked about the draft report that Executive Dunham and his staff are working on. Executive Director Dunham replied that there are two faculty representatives on the advisory committee in addition to members of the administration on the compliance committee. He offered to return later in the semester to provide more updates to Divisional Council. A Divisional Council member pointed out that when UC Merced first joined the NAIA, the former Chancellor empaneled a Blue Ribbon commission that represented the faculty side of the planning. It would be useful to continue that practice.

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

Attest: Matt Hibbing, Senate Chair