

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, April 29, 2024

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

I. Chair’s Report – Matt Hibbing

- A. Meeting with the Chancellor and the EVC/Provost (April 22)
- SSHA faculty are currently voting on the school restructuring proposal.
 - EVC/Provost Dumont understands the issues around the proposed Psychology BS degree and the lack of faculty numbers to deliver the emphasis tracks.
 - Proposed Medical Education Department in the School of Natural Sciences. This will be discussed later in today’s meeting.
- B. Academic Council (April 24)
- It is likely that the UC Regents Policy on Public and Discretionary Statements by Academic Units will be approved by the Regents at their May meeting.
 - More faculty involvement is needed in the next round of labor negotiations.
- C. Reminder: May 3 Meeting of the Division (3:30pm in ADMIN-RUIZ 306)

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Today’s Agenda
B. April 15 Meeting Minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Campus Items

A. Proposed Amendments to Bylaw II.IV.2.A (AFAC Membership) – AFAC Chair Eaton

The proposed amendments were linked on today’s agenda and are summarized as follows:

- Addition of a GSA representative to the membership
- Clarification regarding students’ voting privileges
- Addition of CoC’s role in determining the membership of AFAC

AFAC Chair Eaton summarized the proposed amendments.

Action: Members voted to endorse amendments to Bylaw II.IV.2.A (AFAC Membership). These amendments will be voted on by Senate members at the Spring Meeting of the Division on May 3, 2024. (Note: In the absence of quorum on May 3, the proposed Bylaw amendments will be sent to the Senate for vote via email. This also applies to item B. on page 2).

B. Proposed Amendments to Senate Regulation III.3.B (Academic Dismissal) – CRE&UGC Chair Viney

These amendments were proposed by UGC in response to a proposal from former VPDUE Frey to permanently approve the practice of not academically dismissing students after the first semester, and in response to CRE’s recommendation to review the corresponding Regulations. Per CRE’s suggestion, UGC has approved the temporary practice of not academically dismissing students after their first semester until the amendments to the Regulation are approved.

CRE & UGC Chair Viney summarized the proposed amendments which were linked on today’s agenda.

Action: Members voted to endorse amendments to Regulation III.3.B (Academic Dismissal). These amendments will be voted on by Senate members at the Spring Meeting of the Division on May 3, 2024.

C. SSHA Proposal for B.S. Degree in Psychology and Amendments to the B.A. Psychology Program¹ – UGC Chair Viney

The proposal was distributed to standing Senate Committees, the SNS and SOE ECs, and the Administration.

The proposal and all relevant correspondence was linked on today’s agenda. UGC strongly supported the proposal for a BS degree program in Psychology but could not approve it at this time until the department receives the appropriate faculty resources to deliver the new major. However, UGC approved the proposed updated Program Learning Outcomes for the B.A. in Psychology, and to approve implementation of the proposed Health Psychology and Social Psychology emphasis tracks for the B.A. in Psychology as soon as Fall 2024.

Action: Members voted to endorse UGC’s memo for transmittal to the Psychology Department, the EVC/Provost, the Interim VPDUE, and the Interim SSHA Dean.

D. SSHA Proposal for a Science, Technology, and Ethics B.S. Degree Program – UGC Chair Viney

The proposal and all relevant correspondence were linked on today’s agenda.

Comments were received from:

- AFAC
- CAPRA
- GC
- LASC
- NES
- ALO
- IEVCP/IVPDUE

¹ DivCo recusal: CoC Chair Depaoli (voting member of DivCo)

UGC Chair Viney summarized the proposed degree program, UGC’s memo, and Senate committee comments.

Action: Members voted to endorse UGC’s approval of the proposed degree program.

E. SNS Proposal for an Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology B.S. Degree Program – UGC Chair Viney

The proposal and all relevant correspondence were linked on today’s agenda.

Comments were received from:

- AFAC
- CAPRA
- LASC
- ALO
- IEVCP/IVPDUE

UGC Chair Viney summarized the proposed degree program, UGC’s memo, and Senate committee comments.

Action: Members voted to endorse UGC’s approval of the proposed degree program.

F. Proposal for the Establishment of Medical Education Department – Chair Hibbing

The Senate reviewed this proposal earlier this semester and issued its response on March 4. Relevant materials were hyperlinked on today’s agenda.

Action: DivCo will continue the discussion and vote during the May 13 meeting.

G. CoR Memo: Core Facilities Recommendations

This topic was introduced by CoR Chair Tao Ye during the March 25 DivCo meeting. CoR’s memo was linked on today’s agenda.

CoR Chair Ye summarized CoR’s memo and DivCo members had no comments.

Action: Members endorsed CoR’s memo for transmittal to the administration.

IV. Systemwide Review Items

A. Proposed Amendment to Senate Regulation 434.A (Area H) – AFAC Chair Eaton

The amendment to Senate Regulation (SR) 424.A.3 was proposed by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS). The amendment introduces a new requirement for freshman admission to the University (Area H).

Comments were received from:

- AFAC
- CRE
- EDI
- UGC

AFAC Chair Eaton summarized the proposed amendment and the Senate committee comments. DivCo members reiterated their endorsement.

Action: The Merced Division comments will be transmitted to the Academic Council.

B. Report of the University of California Systemwide Advisory Workgroup on Students with Disabilities – Chair Hibbing

As noted in the memo from VP Gullatt, this “report is the first-ever, comprehensive record of the experiences and outcomes of students with disabilities at UC”.

Comments:

- AFAC
- CRE
- EDI
- GC
- UGC

Chair Hibbing summarized the report and the Senate committee comments. DivCo members had no comments.

Action: The Merced Division comments will be transmitted to the Academic Council.

C. Proposed Academic Senate Statement on UC Quality – Chair Hibbing

The Statement was prepared by the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP). Background information is available on the memos from Academic Council Chair Steintrager and UCEP Chair Cocco. The proposed statement and other relevant materials were linked on today’s agenda.

Comments were received from:

- CAPRA
- CRE
- CoR
- EDI
- FWAF
- GC
- LASC
- UGC

Chair Hibbing summarized the proposed statement and the Senate committee comments. A DivCo member mentioned that CCGA will raise graduate education-related issues. This is important given the current discussion about what is graduate education versus employment.

Action: The Merced Division comments will be transmitted to the Academic Council.

V. Other Business

DivCo members briefly discussed the student protests and encampments occurring at other UC campuses. It is unknown if similar occurrences will happen when UC Merced hosts the May Regents Meeting. DivCo members agreed that campus leadership needs to consult with faculty and that the campus needs to have a plan.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm
Attest: Matt Hibbing, Senate Chair