

**DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022**

The Divisional Council (DivCo) held a total of 16 meetings with respect to its duties as outlined in the Merced Division Bylaw I.IV.3. Over the course of the year, committee guests included the following:

- Chancellor Muñoz
- Provost/EVC Camfield
- Kurt Schnier, Interim Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer
- Charlie Eaton, Member, Admissions and Financial Aid Committee
- Mariaelena Gonzalez, Member, Admissions and Financial Aid Committee
- Maria DePrano, Chair, Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications
- Elizabeth (Betsy) Dumont, Dean, School of Natural Sciences
- Thelma Hurd, Director of Medical Education
- Sarah Frey, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education
- Charles Nies, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
- Carrie Menke, Chair, Divisional Council Anti-Racism Working Group
- Cecil Howard, Interim Vice Chancellor and Chief Diversity Officer
- Sarah Foisy and Jon Neepner, Follett Higher Education Representatives
- Paul Maglio, Director of Division of Management and Information

Many of Divisional Council's agenda items were delegated for preliminary review by the appropriate Senate Committees, followed by full Divisional Council review. The issues that Division Council considered this year are described briefly below.

Oracle Financial System

Divisional Council consulted with Interim Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Kurt Schnier on the severe challenges of the Oracle financial system and grant management and their negative impact on faculty research. The system was launched without the proper infrastructure and Interim CFO Schnier's staff have had to deal with data integrity and data conversation issues immediately after the launch. VC/CFO Schnier kept Divisional Council informed of improvements made to the system. Divisional Council conveyed to Interim CFO Schnier the faculty's dismay at the lack of Senate consultation in the campus's previous decision to adopt the Oracle system and kept him informed of the continuing problems with the system.

Research Infrastructure

CoR Chair Sexton and CoR Vice-Chair Ye led discussions at Divisional Council on the ongoing challenges with the campus research infrastructure. Campus administration held town halls for faculty on this topic. CoR drafted a memo in response to the Chancellor and EVC/Provost's November 1 comments to the collaborative memo from CoR, FWAf, and GC on research infrastructure. CoR's follow up memo acknowledged the improvements made to procurement but pointed out the continued problems with purchasing and grant accounting. CoR suggested that the Division of Finance and Administration articulate clear goals and standards for success. Faculty are dismayed that orders still take too long to place, errors on orders are still occurring, and many orders are rejected due to problems with chart strings. Divisional Council transmitted CoR's follow up memo to the Chancellor and EVC/Provost on April 26.

Community and Labor Center ORU Proposal

Divisional Council re-started the Senate review of the ORU proposal following consultation with the administration. On February 28, following much discussion, Divisional Council transmitted its endorsement of the ORU proposal to Interim VCORED Marjorie Zatz.

Greenhouse Core Facility

In spring 2022, the Senate Chair requested CoR conduct a preliminary review of the proposal to establish a Greenhouse core facility. CoR endorsed the proposal. The proposal was issued for Senate review and comments were received from Senate committee by June 10. The proposal was approved by Chair Westerling and VCORED was notified on July 18, 2022.

Academic Activity Proposal

On January 27, Divisional Council endorsed AFAC's request for a Senate review of the Academic Activity proposal. AFAC Member Charlie Eaton attended the May 5 Divisional Council meeting to summarize AFAC's recommendations in their April 15 memo which were drafted after collaboration with the campus Financial Aid director and the campus Registrar. Divisional Council members raised a few concerns which AFAC Chair Abbas Ghassemi will assist in addressing.

Divisional Council Anti-Racism Working Group

Working Group Chair Carrie Menke provided updates to Divisional Council on the working group's activities. The Chancellor previously allocated \$100,000 to combat anti-racism on campus. Two different initiatives have emerged as a result: the anti-racism mini grants program and the Senate self-assessment. The working group is trying to hire a contractor who will facilitate the self-assessment. The original proposal called for both a quantitative (surveys) and qualitative (interviews) element. The Senate should be tasked with facilitating the self-assessment. The contractor would conduct one to two 45-minute training sessions with facilitators so they have a shared understanding of the goal of self-assessment. In addition, the contractor will provide templates for surveys and interview questions. The contractor would ultimately analyze all the data and prepare a report for the Senate to review. Professor Menke stated that this whole process can be completed in AY 22-23.

Campus Honors Program

The 2014 Task Force under former EVC/Provost Peterson recommended that UC Merced institute an honors program to serve its most "academically-talented students, from all majors and schools." In 2021 UGC set up a task force to design and implement a new program that would provide academically talented and motivated students with an enriched environment to be creative and innovative, develop leadership skills, and become effective global citizens and community partners. In drafting the proposal to create a campus honors program, UGC sought input from Divisional Council and School Executive Committees.

Ernest & Julio Gallo Pre-proposal for a School of Management

Divisional Council held several discussions about the second review of the pre-proposal to establish the Gallo School of Management, most of which took place under executive session. Much of the discussion conducted under open session related to the process and timeline of the review. On April 1, the pre-proposal was issued for Senate review. A poll was issued to Senate faculty on behalf of Senate leadership in spring 2022 on whether faculty were in favor of, or opposed to, the creation of the Gallo School. On April 28, the results of the poll were distributed to Senate faculty via an email announcement: in favor of establishing a Gallo School of Management as detailed in the pre-proposal: 98; opposed to establishing a Gallo School of Management as detailed in the pre-proposal: 102. Divisional Council reviewed all comments on the pre-proposal from Senate committees, School Executive Committees, the administration, and individual faculty members. Divisional Council will issue a memo to the Chancellor and EVC/Provost and another memo to

the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) requesting an academic informational review of the Gallo School pre-proposal.

Proposal to Create a B.S. Degree in Electrical Engineering

Divisional Council reviewed and endorsed the proposal to create a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering.

Proposed Revisions to the English Major and Minor

Divisional Council reviewed and endorsed the proposed revisions to the English Major and Minor.

Medical Education

School of Natural Sciences Dean Elizabeth (Betsy) Dumont and Director of Medical Education Thelma Hurd gave updates to Divisional Council on the work of the medical education work streams. UC Merced continues to partner with UCSF on the BSMD program. Senate Chair Westerling requested that Director Hurd and Dean Dumont submit a preliminary plan for undergraduate education and resources in spring semester 2022 with the rationale that the current Divisional Council membership is calibrated to medical education updates. He recommended that Director Hurd and Dean Dumont submit a preliminary framework about the bachelor's program and resources so that they have a record of Senate consultation. It is understood that this is not the final plan.

MacKenzie Scott Gift to UC Merced

Following the announcement of the \$20 million gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott to UC Merced, Chancellor Muñoz allocated \$1 million to the Academic Senate for the support of faculty. Divisional Council formed a subcommittee comprising the chairs of CAPRA, CoR, GC, UGC, and the Senate Chair who took the lead in proposing a plan for spending the \$1 million. The subcommittee presented the proposed plan to Divisional Council at the January 27 meeting. Divisional Council endorsed the plan. The plan would allocate \$250,000 in January – July 2022 in the following manner: 1) \$175,000 to the Senate faculty grants program (on top of the annual base funding of \$100,000) and 2) \$75,000 to professional and student support initiatives. \$250,000 would then be allocated in each of the next three fiscal years in the following manner: \$100,000 to the Senate faculty grants program, \$100,000 to instrumentation grants, and \$50,000 to professional and student support initiatives. As part of the spending plan, all proposals submitted to CoR for the AY 21-22 Senate faculty grants program were funded.

Instructional Planning

Throughout the academic year, UGC Chair Holley Moyes and GC Chair Erin Hestir kept Divisional Council informed of issues related to remote teaching accommodations, COVID-related instructional planning and contingencies, and online education oversight. UGC revised the procedures for approving online courses and Divisional Council was kept informed of the revisions. GC developed a set of review criteria and rubrics that are based on the best available science for online pedagogy and requirements for accreditation. GC met with the deans, curriculum managers, and the Registrar multiple times to solicit their input during this process. In addition, the UGC and GC chairs, together with the FWF chair, issued a memo to faculty in spring 2022 reminding them of flexibility in instruction in the case of emergencies and to work with their department chairs. In the fall semester, the Senate approved the extension of the policy to allow remote instruction as a reasonable accommodation for instructors who are immuno-compromised or have an immuno-compromised individual in their household.

Divisional Council took the following actions on the following items:

- Conveyed to Vice Chancellor & Chief External Relations Officer Ed Klotzbier the Senate's comments on three proposed Presidential Chairs (10/1):

- UC Merced Presidential Chair in African American Studies
- UC Merced Presidential Chair in Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies
- UC Merced Presidential Chair in Chicano and Latino Studies
- Conveyed to EVC/Provost Camfield and Chancellor Muñoz, a collaborative memo from CoR, FWAF, and GC on the campus research infrastructure (10/11).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed revisions to the Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment policy (11/10).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the review of the proposed revisions to Senate Regulation 478 – IGETC (11/10).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices (12/7).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed Presidential Policy on Integrated Pest Management (12/7).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed revisions to APM 759 - Leaves of Absence/Other Leaves Without Pay (1/13).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed Presidential Policy on Abusive Conduct/Bullying in the Workplace (1/14).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the second systemwide review of the proposed revisions to Senate Regulation 478 – IGETC (1/19).
- Conveyed to Interim VCORED Marjorie Zatz, Divisional Council's endorsement of the Community and Labor Center ORU proposal (2/28).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed revisions to Senate Regulation 424.A.3 (3/3).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed Recommendations for Department Political Statements (3/3).
- Transmitted to the Office of Ethics and Compliance, the Senate's comments on the proposed UCM Policy on Use of the UC and UCM Names, Network, Electronic and Online Sites, Accounts, and Responses to Media Inquiries (3/14).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed Presidential Policy on UC Research Data (4/19).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, a notification that the Senate had no comments on the proposed Presidential Policy on Supplement to Military Pay (4/19).
- Conveyed to VPDUE Sarah Frey, Divisional Council's endorsement of the proposal to create a B.S. Degree in Electrical Engineering (4/20).
- Conveyed to EVC/Provost Camfield and Chancellor Muñoz, CoR's response to the EVC/Provost and Chancellor's November 1 comments on research infrastructure (4/26).
- Conveyed to VPDUE Sarah Frey, Divisional Council's endorsement of the proposed revisions to the English Major and Minor (4/29).
- Conveyed to deans, department chairs, graduate group chairs, and school executive committee chairs a memo co-signed by EVC/Provost Camfield on Instructional Modalities and Accommodations for Fall 2022 (5/4).
- Transmitted to the Academic Personnel Office, comments from FWAF and Non-Senate Academic Councils on the proposed MAPP 283 (5/16).
- Transmitted to EVC/Provost Camfield, the Senate's comments on the Five-Year Planning Perspectives 2022-2027 (6/2).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the Presidential Policy on Affiliations with Certain Healthcare Organizations (6/15).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the Report of the Negotiated Salary Trial Program Phase 2 Taskforce (7/13).

- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed revisions to APM-715 and APM-760, Leaves of Absence/Family and Medical Leave, and Family Accommodations for Childbearing and Childrearing (7/13).

Respectfully Submitted,

Divisional Council Members:

LeRoy Westerling, Senate Chair, School of Engineering, Academic Council

Patti LiWang, Senate Vice-Chair, School of Natural Sciences

Christopher Viney, Secretary/Parliamentarian, CRE Chair, School of Engineering

Abbas Ghassemi, AFAC Chair, School of Engineering, BOARS representative

Holley Moyes, UGC Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, UCEP representative

Jason Sexton, COR Chair, School of Natural Sciences, UCORP representative

Ramesh Balasubramaniam, CAP Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, UCAP representative

Kevin Mitchell, CAPRA Chair, School of Natural Sciences, UCPB representative

Erin Hestir, GC Chair, School of Natural Sciences, CCGA representative

David Jennings, FWAF Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts, UCAF representative

Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez, EDI Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, UCAADE representative

Martin Hagger, CoC Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts, UCOC representative

Justin Yeakel, At-Large, School of Natural Sciences, Assembly of the Academic Senate representative

Min-Hwan Lee, At-Large, School of Engineering

Jeffrey Butler, At-Large, School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts

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