

**DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**

The Divisional Council (DivCo) held a total of 15 meetings with respect to its duties as outlined in the [Merced Division Bylaw I.IV.3](#). The AY 22-23 DivCo membership is available [here](#).

Over the course of the year, committee guests included the following:

- Chancellor Muñoz
- EVC/Provost Camfield
- Special Assistant to the Chancellor Marjorie Zatz
- Kurt Schnier, Interim Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer
- Amanda Preston-Nelson, Campus Controller
- Christiane Spitzmueller, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs & Strategy
- Laura Martin, Assistant EVC/Provost for Academic Planning & Institutional Assessment
- Gillian Wilson, Vice Chancellor for Research
- Maria DePrano, Chair, Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications
- Elizabeth (Betsy) Dumont, Dean, School of Natural Sciences
- Margot Vener, Director of Medical Education
- Professor Roger Bales, School of Engineering
- Professor Michael Dawson, School of Natural Sciences, Chair, Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability

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.

Campus Budget

Divisional Council held discussions with the EVC/Provost about the financial implications of the new UAW contracts, the future of the funding of graduate education as a result of the new contracts, the impact of the strike on the UC research enterprise, and issues surrounding the Temporary Academic Staffing (TAS) budget.

Research Infrastructure and Oracle Financial System

Divisional Council held discussions about the severe, ongoing problems with the campus research infrastructure, specifically regarding procurement and grants accounting. Divisional Council consulted with Interim VC/CFO Schnier and Campus Controller Preston-Nelson and with a member of the Senate Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom who shared with Divisional Council information gathered from faculty and staff on the campus financial systems crisis.

Funding and Compensation for Departments

Divisional Council discussed the issue of departments not being provided funds to cover course releases and faculty leaves. After consultation with department chairs, Divisional Council issued a memo to the EVC/Provost on November 21, 2022.

Divisional Council Anti-Racism Working Group

The Chancellor previously allocated \$100,000 to the Senate to combat anti-black racism. \$50,000 was allocated to a mini grants program and \$50,000 was allocated for the hiring of an external consultant to help the Senate conduct self-assessments. EDI Chair Menke updated Divisional Council on this issue and this will be carry over business to the next academic year.

Campus Strategic Planning

VPAAS Spitzmueller and Assistant EVC/Provost Martin kept Divisional Council informed on the work of the various campus strategic planning teams.

Institutional Debt and Public Service Loan Forgiveness

AFAC Chair Eaton gave presentations to Divisional Council on these issues.

Campus Honors Program

Fall 2022 UGC Chair Moyes and Spring 2023 UGC Chair Bortfeld updated Divisional Council on the revised honors program proposal which Divisional Council endorsed in spring 2023.

New School Policy Work Group

EVC/Provost Camfield requested Academic Senate representation on a Senate-Administration Work Group to review and revise the Policy for the Establishment of Schools and Colleges. The Senate representatives from the Work Group kept Divisional Council informed on their deliberations. Divisional Council endorsed the Work Group's recommendations in spring 2023.

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

Divisional Council members held several discussions on the Gallo pre-proposal, specifically, the feedback received from the systemwide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA). Divisional Council members also attended meetings with the external facilitators retained by the campus to guide discussions on the next steps.

Proposals for New Programs

Divisional Council reviewed, discussed, and took action on the following proposals:

- Endorsed the proposal to create a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering.
- Endorsed, with caveats, the proposal for the establishment of a Philosophy Department
- Made several recommendations for revisions to the proposal for a B.S. Degree in Biochemical and Biomolecular Engineering
- Made several recommendations for revisions to the proposal for an Aerospace Engineering Minor
- Voted in favor of transmitting UGC's approval to the administration of the proposal for a B.S. Degree Program in Public Health
- Voted in favor of transmitting UGC's approval to the administration of the proposal for a B.A. Degree Program & Minor in Environmental Humanities

- Voted in favor of transmitting UGC’s approval to the administration of the proposal for a B.S. Degree Program & Minor in Data Science and Computing with a strong recommendation that the proposers consult with the administration the School of Engineering, and the Registrar to address the naming of the program.
- Voted in favor of transmitting UGC’s approval to the administration of the proposal for a B.A. Degree in Data Science and Analytics with a strong recommendation that the proposers consult with the administration, the School of Natural Sciences, and the Registrar to address the naming of the program.
- Voted in favor of transmitting UGC’s approval to the administration for a proposal for a B.S. Degree in Chemical Engineering
- Voted in favor of transmitting UGC’s approval to the administration for a proposal for a Cognitive Science Honors Program

Proposal from the Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability to Establish a Sustainability Work Group

Divisional Council endorsed the proposal to create this work group structure to facilitate the development of, and oversee progress on, an updated campus sustainability strategic plan.

Climate Funds

Divisional Council reviewed VCR Wilson’s proposal to create an institute comprised of three new centers that would administer the climate research funds that UC Merced received.

CAPRA Survey of Department Chairs on Staffing

Divisional Council reviewed and endorsed CAPRA’s report and survey results to the administration and School deans on the need for department level staffing. Divisional Council transmitted their endorsement memo to the EVC/Provost in spring 2023.

Medical Education

SNS Dean Betsy Dumont and Medical Director Margot Vener consulted with Divisional Council on updates with regard to BS/MD SJV PRIME+.

MacKenzie Scott Gift to UC Merced

In a previous academic year, UC Merced received a \$20 million gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott from which Chancellor Muñoz allocated \$1 million to the Academic Senate for the support of faculty. Divisional Council approved a plan whereby four Senate committees would allocate a portion of the MacKenzie Scott funds. In this academic year, after consultation with Divisional Council, CoR, FWAF, GC, and UGC, each issued a call for proposals to allocate their respective share of the funds.

Divisional Council took action on the following items:

- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate’s comments on the Presidential Policy on Abusive Conduct in the Workplace (10/17).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate’s comments on the proposed revisions to APM 025 and APM 671 (10/17).

- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed Senate Regulation 479 - Cal-GETC (11/10).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed revisions to Senate Regulation 630 (11/10).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the Entry Level Writing Requirement Task Force Report and Recommendations (11/10).
- Transmitted to EH&S and VCR Wilson, the Senate's comments on the Interim Procedure on Assurance of Laboratory Safety Compliance (11/18).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the Presidential Policy on Vaccination Programs (1/18).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices (1/18).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Maintaining and Managing Presidential Policies (2/13).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed Amendments to Senate Regulations Governing Undergraduate Admission (3/22).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed revisions to Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-43 Purchases of Goods and Services; Supply Chain Management (4/18).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed Presidential Policy – Anti-Discrimination (4/19).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed Presidential Policy – Clery Act Policy (5/17).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed Presidential Policy Responding to Immigration Enforcement Issues Involving Patients in UC Health Facilities (5/17).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed Presidential Policy on Inventions, Patents, and Innovation Transfer (5/17).
- Transmitted to Academic Council, the Senate's comments on the proposed revisions to APM 210 and APM 710 (6/15).