

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
Friday, May 28, 2021

Attendees: Chair Robin DeLugan, Vice Chair LeRoy Westerling, Christopher Viney, Ramesh Balasubramaniam, Patti LiWang, Hrant Hratchian, Matthew Hibbing, Abbas Ghassemi, Kara McCloskey, Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez, Erin Hestir, Jessica Trounstine, and Justin Yeakel.

I. Chair's Report – Robin DeLugan

A. Academic Council (5/26/21)

- i. John A. Pérez is stepping down as Chair of the UC Board of Regents. Regent Cecilia Estolano will take his place as the new Chair.
- ii. Two individuals from each campus were identified to discuss how better to link campus and systemwide sustainability efforts. In a previous Divisional Council meeting, members discussed the possibility of a Divisional Council at-large member serving as an ex-officio member of the campus Faculty Advisory Committee on Sustainability.
- iii. Faculty are encouraged to respond to the systemwide instructional survey.

B. C-19 Cabinet Updates

Senate committees have opined on the systemwide COVID-19 policy and comments were transmitted to the systemwide Senate Chair. The CDC will be accepting all vaccinations that have scientific merit. That is good news for international students who have been vaccinated in their home countries and can plan to travel to the US for their studies. A Divisional Council member asked whether there will be social distancing in classrooms in the fall semester and if the campus has large enough classrooms. Chair DeLugan answered that the campus will abide by Cal/OSHA guidelines and to contact Interim VCORED Zatz about issues regarding laboratory space.

C. Meeting with EVC/Provost (5/24/21)

- i. Self-supporting graduate degree programs and the need for marketing support so the programs can be successful.
- ii. The EVC/Provost appreciated the Senate's feedback on the draft strategic plan and they will revise it accordingly.
- iii. UC-AFT negotiations are continuing but there may be a strike of Unit 18 lecturers in fall 2021.
- iv. EVC/Provost Camfield will speak with UC Vice Provost for Academic Personnel and Programs Susan Carlson about extending UC Merced's MOU with regard to stipends for external CAP members. If the MOU is not extended, CAP can still have external members but cannot give them stipends.
- v. Last year the Senate began to study Senate compensation. Chair DeLugan encourages AY 21-22 Senate Chair Westerling to address this next year.
- vi. With regard to LASC's memo on the Library budget cuts, the EVC/Provost is aware of the Library space issues.

D. Meeting with Chancellor and EVC/Provost (5/27/21)

Strategic planning is nearly complete, student applications and enrollment both look positive, Schools and Divisions are submitting their academic plans, and the Chancellor sent an email to the campus yesterday regarding a pay raise for faculty and most policy-covered staff.

Senate Vice Chair Westerling stated that he informed EVC/Provost Camfield that since the administration has all the information on faculty's current space and configuration, they are in the best position to prepare faculty on social distancing rules and modified configurations. EVC/Provost Camfield agreed that the onus is on the administration.

A Divisional Council member asked how in-person operations will be conducted on campus when some individuals are vaccinated and some are not. Senate Chair DeLugan replied that rules will be strict for students.

A Divisional Council member stated that there are serious issues on campus not only with the BSP building but in computing as well. JCI is non-responsive. Another Divisional Council member agreed and added that there is currently no drinking water in the SRE building. Occupants were notified by signs taped up in the building rather than emails. There have been no updates and no further communication. The Divisional Council member has had to email the administration, JCI, and her dean for information. The campus is out of compliance with regard to Cal/OSHA and SRE is not occupiable.

II. Update from the Anti-Racism Work Group

Members: Robin DeLugan, Erin Hestir, Jesus Sandoval-Hernandez, Josue Medellin-Azuara, Christopher Viney

The draft Call for Proposals was hyperlinked on today's agenda.

Chair DeLugan stated that the funding for this initiative that was allocated for this initiative was rolled over into next year. The campus will hire an EDI consultant. There are proposals for designing a self-study or assessment on how the Senate is addressing EDI and removing barriers. The Senate has made progress already: the UCM Divisional Bylaws were revised and now include a diversity statement. D&E (now called EDI) will manage the mini grant proposals.

A Divisional Council member asked to what extent Associate Chancellor Matos could handle these issues and now these issues differ from her office's charge. Chair DeLugan replied that her office does not have the bandwidth to drill down to the unit/department level and that is why the campus is hiring an EDI consultant. Associate Chancellor Matos was consulted on the names of potential consultants. Chair DeLugan also pointed out that the self-study is more appropriately handled by an external individual who has an outside perspective.

The work group discussed asking Divisional Council to endorse a statement that encourages next year's Divisional Council to support and participate in this process as it will be a multi-year effort. Another Divisional Council member pointed out that it is difficult to pre-commit without knowing the exigencies of what is involved.

Action: Divisional Council agreed to encourage next year's Divisional Council's members to participate in the anti-racism effort.

III. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of today's agenda

B. Approval of the May 14 Meeting Minutes

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Campus Items

A. Materials Science and Engineering Minor – *UGC Member Eileen Camfield*

The proposal for a Minor in Materials Science and Engineering was approved by UGC on May 25, 2021.

UGC Member Camfield briefly summarized the proposed minor and stated that the lead authors want to generate more interest in Materials Science and Engineering (MSE). A Divisional Council member pointed out the absence of a support letter from the dean of Natural Sciences or from the chairs of the chemistry and physics departments who would be impacted by this new minor. Senate Executive Director Paul replied that the proposed minor was sent to SSHA and SNS, but neither provided feedback.

Action: Divisional Council endorsed the proposed MSE minor. Senate Committee comments will be transmitted to the administration for its consideration.

B. Writing Studies Major – *UGC Member Eileen Camfield*

UGC Member Camfield briefly summarized the proposed Writing Studies major which was presented as revenue neutral. A Divisional Council member pointed out that the program relies heavily on Unit 18 lecturers and should include more Senate faculty. UGC Member Camfield responded that they will be adding an additional Senate faculty member who will also serve as the director of the Merritt Writing Program which will bring the total to five Senate members. She added that the program discussed transparency and equity in providing Unit 18 lecturers the opportunity to teach the upper division writing courses.

A Divisional Council member argued that the proposal is not revenue neutral, since any time the campus establishes a new major, it creates a service requirement to deliver it. It is critical that there are enough Senate faculty to deliver the major.

Divisional Council members supported the proposed Writing Studies major but agreed that it is not resource neutral because it will need additional Senate faculty.

Action: Divisional Council endorsed the proposed Writing Studies major but agreed the major needs more Senate faculty. Senate committee comments will be transmitted to the administration for its consideration.

C. UCM Library Budget Cuts – *CAPRA Chair LiWang*

LASC's memo on the Library budget cuts and CAPRA's memo to the Senate Chair were both hyperlinked on today's agenda.

CAPRA Chair LiWang summarized the LASC and CAPRA memos. A Divisional Council member pointed out that in a resource-constrained environment, it is not beneficial to conduct across the board cuts. Library and IT, two units that are critical to everyone's success, always get negatively impacted by budget cuts. He asserted that the campus leadership needs to re-

prioritize. Other Divisional Council members agreed; while members are sympathetic to the Library's challenges, it's the administration's job to prioritize budget needs. The Senate Chair suggested drafting a value statement that states that the Senate values the Library and wants a more stable and predictable way to support it moving forward commensurate with campus growth. The Senate advocates scaling Library funding with campus growth. The value statement should echo CAPRA's suggestion about building formulas into the Library's budget.

Action: Divisional Council will draft a memo addressed to the administration and LASC.

D. Review of ORU Proposals – *CoR Chair McCloskey*

Divisional Council evaluated the ORU proposal from the Community and Labor Center and reviewed the comments received from Senate committees. In order to fully evaluate the proposal, in its February 9 memo to the administration, Divisional Council requested clarification regarding the current status of the budget, existing funding for ORUs, and expectations for ORUs going forward. Divisional Council still has not been provided with this information.

On May 3, Divisional Council issued a memo to EVC/Provost Camfield, Interim VCORED Zatz, and Interim CFO Schnier in which they requested that CoR, Interim VCORED Zatz, and the administration work together to prepare answers to the following questions:

- Should every ORU receive the same amount of core funding or is there a formula for each proposed ORU that factors in funding prospects and number of faculty?
- What is the campus paying for the existing ORUs and what amount are they generating themselves?
- If an ORU or Center has been in existence for a given amount of time without generating resources, what is the strategy for disestablishing it?

CoR discussed Divisional Council's memo at its May 13 meeting where it consulted with Interim VCORED Zatz and Interim CFO Schnier. CoR's memo was hyperlinked on today's agenda.

CoR Chair McCloskey summarized CoR's memo. She stated that Interim VCORED Zatz's vision for the ORUs to become self-sustaining is to acquire Center grants. CoR Chair McCloskey added that ORUs should get more indirect cost return and that will incentivize them to seek more grants.

Senate Vice Chair Westerling stated that he consulted with Interim CFO Schnier today and asked for clarification on the ORU budget numbers he provided to CoR at their May 13 meeting. The marginal additional cost of establishing an ORU is fairly modest compared to the totals provided to CoR. However, Interim CFO Schnier does not have that breakdown yet and will work with Interim VCORED Zatz over the summer to acquire that information. Senate Vice Chair Westerling added that Divisional Council should revisit this issue in fall 2021 and suggested that ORU directors be invited to that discussion. A Divisional Council member stated that Interim VCORED Zatz should provide the Senate with a budget that indicates how she will fund the proposed ORU and how she will cut the existing ORUs' budgets to fund the new ORU.

Action: Divisional Council will continue this discussion in AY 21-22.

V. Committee Chairs' Priorities AY 21-22

At the May 14 Divisional Council meeting, committee chairs were invited to share their top three priorities. Those priorities were submitted in writing and are hyperlinked on today's agenda. Due to time constraints, Chair DeLugan asked members to review the priorities on their own rather than have a discussion today.

VI. CoC Updates on Next Year's Senate Committees' Leadership – CoC Chair Chin

Executive Director Paul shared the AY 21-22 Divisional Council membership. A Divisional Council member asked for an update on the request that Senate committee chairs not serve on CoC. CoC Chair Chin responded that there are two Co members who are currently on CAP but since CAP appointments are for three years, CoC cannot change these members' dual status. Executive Director Paul added that the Divisional bylaws were revised this year to prohibit dual appointments for CAP, RCAP, and P&T.

VII. Systemwide Review Items

A. Proposed Presidential Policy: UC Health Participation in Activities under the End of Life Option Act – *FWAF Chair Frank*

The policy includes the following key issues:

- The issuance of the Interim Presidential Policy: UC Health Participation in Activities under the End of Life Option Act in 2016, coincided with the issuance of the End of Life Option Act (California Health and Safety Code §443, et seq., referred to in this policy as the "Option Act") which allows terminally ill adult patients with the mental capacity to make medical decisions to request to be prescribed and self-administer an aid-in-dying drug to end their life if specific conditions are met.
- The Option Act establishes specific procedures and requirements to be followed by patients and health care providers who choose to assist them. It also provides that, upon proper notice, a health care provider may "opt out".
- UC Health has chosen not to opt out but acknowledges the rights of individual employees to refrain from participating in activities authorized under the Option Act.
- It is the policy of the University of California to extend to its patients the choices made available through the Option Act and to comply with its terms. The University, however, neither requires nor encourages any individual provider to participate. Participation in activities authorized under the Act is **strictly voluntary**.

Comments on the policy were received from CoR and FWAF and are hyperlinked on today's agenda. Both committees endorsed the proposed revisions.

FWAF Chair Frank briefly summarized the policy and pointed out that the proposed revisions are not substantial. Divisional Council members had no additional comments.

Action: Senate committee comments will be transmitted to Academic Council Chair Gauvain by June 16, 2021.

B. Fee Policy for Graduate Student in Absentia Registration - *GC Chair Hratchian*

The revisions of the policy would permit Deans to establish “a local campus region within which in absentia registration will not be considered” instead of limiting eligibility to students studying outside of California.

Comments were received from CAPRA, CoR, and GC and are hyperlinked on today’s agenda.

GC Chair Hratchian briefly summarized the policy. The reduction in fees occurs because the student is assumed not to be using UC resources, including faculty time and mentoring. Right now, the graduate deans are defining “local area” and GC Chair Hratchian recommends that GC should be consulted on the definition. The graduate dean can still approve exceptions. He added that the policy should not be confused with a student taking a leave of absence.

Action: Senate committee comments will be transmitted to Academic Council Chair Gauvain by July 21, 2021.

VIII. Other Business

GC Chair Hratchian shared that CCGA recently heard that systemwide Provost Brown stated at an Academic Council meeting that proposals for new Masters programs will require only local campus approval and not CCGA approval. CCGA will likely object and there may be a systemwide discussion about this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.
Attest: Robin DeLugan, Senate Chair