

**DIVISIONAL COUNCIL
MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
ANNUAL REPORT 2017 – 18**

The Divisional Council (DivCo) held a total of 18 meetings with respect to its duties as outlined in the Merced Division Bylaw I.IV.3. Over the course of the year, guest attendees included Chancellor Leland, Provost/EVC Peterson, the Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, Veronica Mendez, the Interim Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Services, Brian Powell, the Director of Institutional Research and Decision Support, Jenna Allen, the Director of Strategic Communications, Richard Cummings, the Executive Director of Business and Financial Strategic Initiatives, Andy Boyd, the Interim Director of Sponsored Projects, Autumn Salazar, the Director of Sustainability, Colleen McCormick, the Chair of the WSCUC Steering Committee for Reaffirmation of Accreditation, Nate Monroe, the Chair of the School of Engineering, Catherine Keske, and the Chair of the School of Natural Sciences, Erik Menke. Many of DivCo's agenda items were delegated for preliminary review by the appropriate Senate Committees, followed by full Divisional Council review. The issues that DivCo considered this year are described briefly below.

Academic Planning, Budget Development, and School Restructuring

At regular intervals throughout the year, DivCo considered issues and received updates on the three planning initiatives jointly undertaken by the Senate and administration during AY 2018-19: academic planning, budget and budget policy development, and school restructuring. In January, DivCo endorsed a memo from the Committee on Research (CoR) and the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) to the Co-Chairs of the Budget Work Group regarding the acute need for adequate discretionary research funding for faculty. In March, DivCo commented on the draft *Carry Forward Policy* developed by the Budget Work Group and, in April and May, DivCo responded to the Academic Restructuring Work Group's *Proposal for Academic Reorganization* and the work group's response to Senate comments respectively.

General Education

At various times throughout the year, Divisional Council considered issues related to the implementation of the new General Education program. These included strategies for addressing concerns raised by the schools of Natural Sciences and Engineering in February memos to the Senate Chair (2/6 and 2/20), and strategies for addressing concerns about the proposed GE bylaws raised by faculty at town halls held on May 3 and 7 (5/8). At a meeting held August 2, DivCo approved the proposed agreement for an interim governance structure for the General Education.

Undocumented Students

At its March 20 meetings, DivCo discussed the Senate's role in addressing the needs of undocumented students. At the April 10 meeting, members advised on a draft resolution in support of undocumented students that ultimately was put before the faculty at the April 16 Meeting of the Division.

UC Merced Accreditation

Over the course of the year, DivCo received updates on the campus's progress on its reaffirmation of WSCUC accreditation and, in February, members met with the external review team during the Accreditation Visit. In September, DivCo was also briefed by the campus's Accreditation Liaison Officer of changes to substantive change-related accreditation policies.

Membership of the Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC)

As a carryover item from the 2016-17 academic year, DivCo recommended to PROC revisions to the Senate appointment structure to PROC. The proposed revisions were endorsed by PROC and adopted by the Senate for implementation in AY 2018-19. In May, DivCo also endorsed proposed revisions to PROC's membership that addressed changes to the administrative positions represented on PROC.

DivCo took the following actions on the following items:

- Recommended to the Periodic Review Oversight Committee (PROC) an alternative appointment structure for Senate representation on PROC (9/7)
- Recommended to the Provost that the campus endorse the Open Access 2020 Expression of Interest (9/7)
- Commented on the draft Policy on Assurance of Laboratory Safety Compliance (9/29)
- Conveyed to the Provost, Vice Provost for the Faculty, and Interim Vice Chancellor of Business and Administrative Services, recommendations to address childcare needs that emerged from FWAF's survey on this topic (10/3)
- Endorsed UGC's approval of the new undergraduate major in Philosophy, effective spring 2018 (10/3)
- Endorsed the application for Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) for the Master of Management degree, the campus's first PDST (10/10).
- Endorsed the Committee on Research's recommendations to the Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development regarding the report titled *Comparative Grazing Practices between Dairy Cattle and Beef Cattle and the Need to Change Management Practices on the Merced Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve* (10/13)
- Commented to Associate Chancellor Putney on the *UC Merced Climate Action Plan* (10/20)
- Commented to Associate Chancellor Putney on the *UC Merced Sustainability Strategic Plan* (10/20)
- Transmitted to Staff Assembly a memo from the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom (FWAF) providing recommendations regarding childcare needs (10/24)
- Recommended to the Provost FWAF's endorsement of a request that UC Merced maintain its membership in the Scholars at Risk (SAR) network, and expand its efforts to publicize this program (10/23)
- Endorsed, with amendments, revisions to the Committee on Academic Personnel section of Division bylaw (Part II. Title III.3) (11/8)
- Endorsed UGC's approval of the proposal to discontinue the Environmental Science and Sustainability minor (11/9)
- Commented on the importance of clear communication in Senate-administrative efforts to ensure shared governance (11/20)
- Endorsed the Committee on Research's recommendation that SNRI's status as an ORU be renewed and Professor Roger Bales reappointed as its director (12/13)
- Endorsed two memoranda on the topic of diversity in faculty hiring jointly drafted by the Committee for Diversity and Equity and FWAF (12/13)
- Commented on the *Value to UCM Assessment* document, a proposed process for addressing faculty retention cases (12/14)
- Endorsed the *UC Merced Sustainability Strategic Plan* and the *UC Merced Climate Action Plan* as frameworks to guide campus development (12/14)

- Endorsed a memo from CoR and CAPRA to the Co-Chairs of the Budget Work Group regarding the acute need for adequate discretionary research funding for faculty (1/3)
- Recommended to the Chair of the School of Natural Sciences Executive Committee a meeting of the chairs of Undergraduate Council (UGC), the General Education Subcommittee of UGC, Graduate Council, and the Division to better understand the school's concerns about the new General Education program (2/7)
- Approved the proposal for *A Program of Graduate Studies in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science for MS and PhD Degrees* (2/20)
- Commented on the revised *Incentive Plan for Revenue Generating Master's Degree Programs* (2/23)
- Invited the Management of Complex Systems faculty to respond to comments by CAPRA, the Provost, and the SSHA executive and curriculum committees on the revised *Proposal for Proposal for a Minor in Management Analytics and Decision-making (MAD)* (2/27)
- Endorsed, with amendments, revisions to Section Part II, Section 4 of the Division Regulations addressing Honors (3/5)
- Encouraged committees lacking a conflict of interest policy to adopt a statement consistent with the draft revision of Senate Bylaw 128, and those committees with existing statements to review them in light of the draft bylaw revision (3/19)
- Commented on the draft *Carry Forward Policy* (3/21)
- Commented on the Committee on Rules and Elections document *Recommended Voting Policies in Academic Personnel Cases* (4/2)
- Solicited comment on the *Overview of Consultation* document, intended to clarify, for members internal and external to the Senate, the meaning of the term consultation in the context of Senate business (4/4)
- Approved the *Proposal for a Minor in Management Analytics and Decision-making (MAD)*, effective fall 2018 (4/13)
- Recommended revisions to the proposed gift agreement for an endowed chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies (4/25)
- Requested confirmation of the plan for awarding teaching credit for the proposed *Political Science Honors Program* (4/25)
- Endorsed for implementation UC Merced Extension's proposal for a non-degree program, the *UC Merced Extension Teacher Preparation Program, Multiple Subject Credential and Single Subject Credential* (4/25)
- Commented on *Proposal for Academic Reorganization* from the Academic Restructuring Working Group (4/25)
- Commented on the *Interim Policy on Expressive Activities and Assembly: Protests, Demonstrations, Non-University Speakers and Posting on Campus and in University Facilities* (4/30)
- Requested that the Senate leadership, including the Executive Director, be involved in planning related to Senate Office space (5/1)
- Recommended three programs be added to the *Five-Year Planning Perspectives* (5/9)
- Approved the proposal for a *Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) Academic (Bylaw 55) Unit within the School of Engineering* (5/9)
- Approved the *Proposal to Reconstitute the Humanities and World Cultures Bylaw Unit* (5/9)
- Endorsed the *Political Science Honors Program Proposal*, effective fall 2018 (5/9)
- Commented on *Chapter Four of the MAPP – Academic Student Employees* (5/10)

- Endorsed the *Policy for the Establishment, Disestablishment, and Review of Core Facilities* developed by the Committee on Research (5/10)
- Endorsed the *Policy on Classroom Recording* developed by FWF as a proposed change to the policies and regulations outlined in section 40.10 (A) of the Student Handbook (5/17)
- Endorsed proposed revisions to PROC's membership that address changes to the administrative positions represented on PROC (5/17)
- Approved the proposal for *A Program of Graduate Studies in Materials and Biomaterials Science and Engineering for the MS and PhD Degrees* (5/18)
- Approved the proposal for *A Program of Graduate Studies in Bioengineering for the MS and PhD Degrees* (5/18)
- Commented on the Academic Restructuring Work Group's response to Divisional Council's comments on the *Proposal for Academic Reorganization* (5/22)
- Approved *A Proposal for a Program of Graduate Studies in Management of Complex Systems in Pursuit of an M.S. and a Ph.D. Degree offered by the Graduate Group in Management of Innovation, Sustainability and Technology* (5/30)
- Approved the proposed agreement for an interim governance structure for the General Education (8/3)

DivCo also opined on the following systemwide items:

- Proposed revisions to Senate Regulation 424.A.3 (Area "d") requirement (11/17)
- The Taskforce Report on the Negotiated Salary Trial Program (11/20)
- Proposed revisions to APM - 285, 210-3, 133, 740, 135 and 235 (2/21)
- Proposed Presidential Policy on Open Access for Theses and Dissertations (3/5)
- Proposed renewal of the *Presidential Policy on Supplement to Military Pay* (4/13)
- Proposed revision to the *UC Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy* (4/26)
- Proposed *Presidential Policy on Disclosure of Financial Interests and Management of COI in Private Sponsors of Research* (5/10)

Approved: Chair Amussen, 8/20/18