



320 STEPHENS HALL

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
February 5, 2021

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the first Fortnightly of 2021. The theme of this edition is hope and light at the end of the tunnel. We have been struggling with this pandemic for so long. We are achingly tired of solitude and technology, our friendships frayed and our resilience tested. All through the autumn, it felt like we were taking one step forward and two steps back. But now, finally, the news is changing. Some of you have already received your first dose of vaccine and many more will do so in the coming weeks and months. Open-sided tents have gone up in Lower Sproul, preparing for the time—not too far away—when we can have occasional, outdoor, in-person instruction. This week, our nation passed a milestone where more people have received the first vaccination than there have been confirmed cases of COVID; nationally and state-wide, new cases are falling sharply. The virus is still widespread and the recent uptick in cases among our students is alarming. Nevertheless, these bright spots hint that we are indeed turning a corner on the path to normal. Have heart! Have hope! We are almost there. Please, keep up the incredibly generous, dedicated work you have been doing. It is worth it.

Your Divisional Council met on January 25th. Our discussion addressed three topics: remote proctoring, the campus's aging energy infrastructure, and faculty life and work after COVID-19. These represent a turn toward the future: much of DIVCO's spring will be about planning—with hope!—for campus life after the pandemic.

Remote Proctoring

DIVCO discussed an excellent [report about remote proctoring](#), authored by a group of faculty chaired by Clark Nguyen. The report lays out strategies to prevent academic dishonesty and the role of remote proctoring as one of many tools, the potential problems with remote proctoring, and discusses how those problems can be mitigated. [Additional information about remote proctoring](#) is available from the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Campus energy infrastructure

Vice Chancellor for Administration Marc Fisher, Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Sally McGarrahan, and Chief Sustainability & Carbon Solutions Officer Kira Stoll presented planning around campus energy. Our cogeneration plant is aging, but as we saw during the power shut-offs of fall 2019, it is essential to our resilience. How can we work toward net-zero carbon emissions and still have back-up power in case of emergencies? A version of their presentation is available at <https://sustainability.berkeley.edu/news/conversation-zero-carbon-energy-campus>.

Faculty work and life after the pandemic

In accordance with APM 730, “Academic personnel appointed on an academic-year basis are expected to be in residence from the day designated in the University Calendar as the opening of the Fall term through the end of the Spring term.” Over the last year, the application of this policy has been adapted to the shelter-in-place orders that kept most of us off campus. What do we envision for the future? DIVCO does not have decision rights about how APM 730 will be interpreted going forward, but we sought to begin a conversation about the kind of university we hope for. We discussed the values we share about the importance of in-person participation in the academic life of the campus, and how those should guide our thinking about a return to normalcy on the campus after COVID-19. Over the spring, DIVCO will also discuss how we envision a post-COVID campus for staff, and Ron Cohen is chairing a committee exploring online teaching into the future. Please email us (johnsonhanks@berkeley.edu, rccohen@berkeley.edu) if you have any thoughts you want to share on these (or any!) topics.

Announcements

New revenues and legal complexities have led to the Chancellor delaying and/or cancelling implementation of a furlough.

Awards

We are delighted to announce that this year’s recipients of the Berkeley Faculty Service Award (BFSA) are Alice Agogino and Oliver O’Reilly. We are so grateful for the work that Alice and Oliver have done, and continue to do, in upholding the ideals and values of our campus. If you’d like to read more about their significant contributions to the Senate, please visit the BFSA page on our website: <https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/awards/bfsa>

Health, Safety and Campus Life

University Health Services continue to expand testing access, with a new drive-through site at Underhill parking garage. It is easy and free to be tested, and regular testing is mandatory for those who come to campus. If you have not yet tried the campus testing, we urge you to [make an appointment](#). We are so enormously grateful to the staff of UHS, who have served campus tirelessly throughout these dark times. They give us hope.

Vaccine doses have arrived on campus! University Health Services has given first doses to nearly all campus personnel whose work puts them at highest risk of contracting COVID-19, and they have started with the next priority group. They are contacting eligible faculty, staff, and emeriti directly. If you get a call from UHS to come get a dose, please go! But note that any invitation from UHS to get a vaccine is for the intended recipient only—do not forward it, and if someone forwards one to you, do not abuse that information. The UHS team is working, with guidance from a team that includes faculty, to ensure that vaccines are given in order of priority. Skipping the line is a serious violation of our community values. Also, UHS will likely not have enough doses for all of campus for a very long time, so if you have an opportunity to get vaccinated through your primary care provider, please take that option.

The lifting of the statewide shelter-in-place orders means that we will be able to proceed with limited outdoor instructional activities, and very limited indoor instruction, at some point soon.

The recent dramatic uptick in positive cases among our undergrads is concerning and has put a temporary break on some of our plans. We are still pursuing a start of outdoor instruction in the next week or two, limited indoor instructions two weeks after and additional indoor instruction a few weeks after that. The phasing is intended to give us time to learn about managing the health and safety of students, staff and faculty as we increase the number of people in and around campus buildings.

Our staff are expected to continue to work from home at least through June.

If vaccine availability continues to grow, we expect that the UCOP commitment to in-person education for fall semester will be achievable. Planning is just beginning and details remain hazy as the campus guesses at the likely availability of vaccines for our students and the efficacy of the vaccination campaign at reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Campus Safety

A Presidential Symposium on campus safety is taking place on Feb 2 and March 24. See <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2021/01/uc-campus-safety-symposium-begins-feb.-2.html> and also <https://www.ucop.edu/research-policy-analysis-coordination/policies-guidance/campus-safety/index.html>

Information from the office of the Vice Provost for the Faculty

The Vice Provost's office has been paying close attention to concerns about reduced faculty capacity for research and teaching during the pandemic. A number of supportive policies have been developed. These were sent to faculty by e-mail on January 27 and we emphasize them again here. <https://ofew.berkeley.edu/welfare/covid-19-support-academics>.

The faculty link program is a wonderful resource for all faculty. It is offering an interesting program this Spring. <https://ofew.berkeley.edu/welfare/faculty-link>

Reminder about our extraordinary staff

While we understand that the vast majority of faculty maintain courteous and professional relationships with staff, there remain reports of a lack of respect, civility, and workplace bullying between faculty and staff. In the [2018-2020 Biennial Report](#) of the Staff Ombuds Office, disrespect and incivility were reported as the top concern raised. While cherishing our wonderful staff may be self-evident for many, we encourage you to keep an eye and ear out for colleagues who are forgetful of how important workplace climate is to our collective productivity.

Please consider the exceptional stresses of the current times and proactively support staff in managing their work-life balance.

We are grateful for the hard work and dedication you are all showing, and look toward the spring with hope.

Fiat Lux,

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