



May 6, 2019  
*updated membership*

Oliver O'Reilly, Working Group Chair, Vice Chair of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate  
Murat Arcak, Professor, Division of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences  
Joshua Blumenstock, Assistant Professor, School of Information  
Carl Boettiger, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management  
Karen Chapple, Professor, College of Environmental Design  
Sandrine Dudoit, Professor, Department of Statistics  
Heather Haveman, Professor, Department of Sociology  
Mahasin Mujahid, Professor, School of Public Health  
Greg Niemeyer, Associate Professor, Department of Art Practice  
Fernando Pérez, Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics  
Chris Shannon, Professor, Department of Economics  
Steven Weber, Professor, School of Information  
Katherine Yelick, Professor, Division of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences

**Re: Charge to Division of Data Science and Information Faculty Working Group**

Dear Colleagues:

As you may know, Chancellor Christ and I [announced](#) in November 2018 plans to establish a new and innovative interdisciplinary structure, provisionally called the Division of Data Science and Information (DDSI), to enable Berkeley faculty and students to work together across boundaries to better explore the foundations, applications, and implications of data science, information, and computation, in a way that serves the interests of the public, the campus, and its academic community through a new teaching and discovery environment. A [search](#) is underway for an Associate Provost and Dean to lead this new division.

Efforts are now being initiated to propose academic and administrative governance, organizational structure and processes, and operating and guiding principles for the new Division. I have [charged](#) a group of academic leaders (including the closely related deans), co-led by Vice Provost Lisa Alvarez-Cohen and Academic Senate Chair Barbara Spackman, to advise me on key academic matters and to weigh in on operational issues related to the transition. They comprise the Administrative Transition Working Group (ATWG).

To ensure that recommendations to me from the ATWG are comprehensive of the faculty's perspectives and have considered all facets, I am asking you to serve on the Data Science and Information Faculty Working Group. Chaired by the Academic Senate Vice Chair, Oliver O'Reilly, and populated by faculty nominated by COMS as well as members nominated by ATWG members, recommendations of the Faculty Working Group will be presented to the ATWG for consideration and deliberation and then to me. The scope of the Faculty Working Group will be to:

1. Build on existing Academic Senate processes to propose guidelines for the process by which the EECS and Statistics Departments will affiliate with the new Division and for the nature of their continued affiliation with the COE and MPS.
2. Establish principles on which bylaws for the Division might be based.
3. Build on the description of the Data Science Commons in the [FAQs](#) to propose guidelines for the Data Science Commons. This should include the process by which interested groups of faculty, programs, and initiatives can make proposals to join the Data Science Commons. Relevant questions include how these proposals will be vetted, the term of affiliations, mechanisms for reviews, and sunset provisions.
4. Consider how relevant institutes and centers can affiliate with the Division, including the Commons.
5. Propose an approach that coordinates current and planned curricular offerings so that Berkeley's data science programs convey a coherent educational strategy.

The Faculty Working Group may decide to organize itself into smaller subgroups to tackle each one of these tasks and I will leave that up to the Chair and the Working Group to decide.

Thank you in advance for your service to the Campus and your willingness to serve on this important initiative.



A. Paul Alivisatos  
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

cc: Lisa Alvarez-Cohen, Vice Provost, Academic Planning  
Barbara Spackman, Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate  
Christopher Yetter, Senior Advisor to the EVCP  
Members of the ATWG