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Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
Faculty Representative to the Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

October 1, 2017

JANET NAPOLITANO, PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: Response to the Budget Act of 2017: Principles to Guide Options for Redirecting Funds to Enrollment

Dear Janet:

As you know, the [Budget Act of 2017](#) requires the University to enroll 1,500 more resident undergraduates in 2018-19, with costs supported by funding redirected from systemwide programs and operations. The 2016-17 Academic Council articulated several concerns about an earlier version of this legislation in a [June 2017 letter](#) to you.

The 2017-18 Academic Council remains concerned that the Budget Act fails to recognize the state's responsibility for funding the marginal cost of enrollment, and sets a bad precedent by shifting that responsibility to UCOP. While we appreciate that the state is in effect making cuts to fund enrollment, but leaving the choice of cuts to us, this legislation also reflects a mistaken belief that these cuts are not harmful to the University's mission or that they can be backfilled by efficiencies. We urge you and others to continue to emphasize that these are real cuts and they do real harm, wherever they are ultimately imposed.

The Council is also interested in how UCOP will identify the funding that will be redirected to support the new enrollments, and is aware that you have appointed an Executive Budget Committee. Options for reallocating \$10 to \$15 million from the UCOP budget for enrolling 1,500 additional resident undergraduates are being examined. A review of the Academic Affairs portfolio has occurred. While Council does not believe that the Office of Academic Affairs should be immune to cuts, Council is concerned that Academic Affairs plays a critical role in supporting the University's core research, teaching, and service missions, and has already absorbed disproportionately deep cuts during the last decade.

At its September 2017 meeting, Council unanimously endorsed the following set of principles to guide the review and maintenance of systemwide programs and services, and the process for considering and making decisions about cuts. These principles apply to the current Budget Act process and to ongoing review with respect to the upcoming state audit response.

Council members supported the following principles unanimously:

1. Budget decisions should prioritize the preservation of academic systemwide programs and services based on the sum of their contributions to the core teaching, research, and public service missions of the University, and as prioritized in that order;
2. Budget decisions should prioritize the preservation of systemwide academic programs and services that support multiple UC campuses, no matter where the programs are located;
3. Proposals for cuts to centrally-funded academic programs and services should be subject to review by the Academic Senate.

We ask that you distribute these principles to the Executive Budget Committee, and look forward to working with you on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Shane N. White", written over a horizontal line.

Shane N. White, Chair
Academic Council

Encl

Cc: Provost Brown
Academic Council
Senate Director Baxter
Senate Executive Directors