

The Report of the Task Force is the product of a tremendous effort by faculty of the University, and it is an expression of the care for and investment in the University that we all feel. We do not write separately to express our disagreement with the findings of the Report or its recommendations but to express our support for moving more quickly than the Report recommends to eliminate consideration of scores on current standardized tests – the SAT and ACT – in admissions decisions.

The analysis of the University's use of these standardized tests found that factors other than scores play a larger role in contributing to disproportionate underrepresentation of African American, Latino, and Native American students on UC campuses. In particular, as prior research has also shown, the requirement that students complete the A-G courses with satisfactory grades plays a major role. The Report also finds that scores on these standardized tests help to predict which applicants are more likely to succeed at UC in the absence of intervention to provide support, and that UC's admissions processes help to mitigate the adverse effects of considering test scores.

However, we remain concerned that the consideration of test scores has a disproportionate effect on applicants to UC who are members of groups that have been in the past and are today victims of discrimination. Thus, we support eliminating consideration of scores on these standardized tests in admissions in a shorter time period than the nine-year span contemplated by the Report and potentially before an alternative suite of assessments is developed. We recommend developing a plan in consultation with admissions officers that will ensure a smooth transition for the admissions process but that will not unduly delay the removal of the current standardized test requirement.

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