Vice President Steven Beckwith
University of California

Re: Report of the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate

Dear Steve:

The Academic Senate reviewed the report of the UC Task Force on Planning for Professional and Doctoral Education’s Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate. Nine divisions (UCB, UCI, UCLA, UCM, UCR, UCSB, UCSC, UCSD, and UCSF) and three systemwide committees (UCEP, UCORP, UCPB) submitted comments, and the Academic Council discussed it at its meeting on December 17, 2008.

On the whole, Council supported the report’s thorough analysis and recommendations of principles and processes that should guide decisions about whether UC or CSU should offer professional doctorates. However, members expressed concern that involving an outside body to adjudicate disputes would impinge on the purview of the Academic Senate. They requested that the document: 1) clarify the role of the Academic Senate in negotiations between UC and CSU; 2) require an analysis of the fiscal impact and need-based assessments of each program under consideration; and 3) correct one factual error. The factual error to be corrected is that UCLA does not have a joint Ed.D. program with CSU. In addition, UCSB and UCORP objected to awarding doctorates for programs of study that do not require research and cautioned that accrediting agencies should not determine the degrees and educational programs offered at UC.

Council endorsed the report with the clarifications noted above. I have asked UCSC Division Chair Quentin Williams, who co-chaired the PDPE subcommittee that wrote the report, to work with your staff to revise the document accordingly.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding Council’s comments.

Sincerely,

Mary Croughan
Chair, Academic Council
November 14, 2008

MARY CROUGHAN
Chair, Academic Council

Subject: Report of the PDPE Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate

Dear Mary,

On November 3, 2008, the Divisional Council (DIVCO) of the Berkeley Division discussed the report cited above, informed by the comments of the divisional Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation and Graduate Council (GC). DIVCO agreed with the Graduate Council that the report was “sensible overall.” Accordingly, DIVCO endorsed the subcommittee’s recommendations. It joined the GC in affirming “the current model of collaboration between UC and California State University (CSU) on professional doctorates should be maintained” and supporting “the revitalization of the California Post-Secondary Education Commission as an adjudicator of these proposals.”

Sincerely,

Mary K. Firestone
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
Professor, Environmental Science, Policy and Management

Cc: John Ellwood, Chair, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation
    Ronald Cohen, Chair, Graduate Council
    Linda Song, Associate Director staffing Graduate Council
    Diane Sprouse, Senate Analyst, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation
November 20, 2008

Mary Croughan, Chair, Academic Council
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

RE:  SYSTEMWIDE REVIEW OF THE REPORT ON THE PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE

At its meeting of November 18, 2008, the Irvine Division Academic Senate Cabinet reviewed the Report of the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate of the UC Task Force on Planning for Professional and Doctoral Education. The Cabinet agreed with the authors of the report in warning against diluting limited state funding, creating unwanted competition that serves neither public nor academic interests, and possibly requiring substantial new investments.

The report left unclear whether there were reliable data about the marketability of newly created professional degrees, or employment data that compared research-based doctorates with related professional degrees. This information might be useful to the UC in considering the potential impact of new degrees.

Members thought that the report deftly negotiated the issue, but nonetheless felt that the line between professional degrees and research-based doctoral degrees should be drawn more clearly. Members were also concerned that an increased number of professional doctorates would reduce the differentiation of the UC system from the Cal State University system and potentially devalue the unique position of the UC in the California educational system. The Cabinet recommends that these developments be monitored carefully by UCOP.

The Irvine Division appreciates the opportunity to comment.

Jutta Heckhausen, Senate Chair

C: Martha Kendall Winnacker, Executive Director, Academic Senate
November 21, 2008

Mary Croughan
Chair of the Academic Council
University of California

**In Re: Professional Doctorates**

Dear Mary,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and opine upon the report of the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate of the UC Task Force on Planning for Professional and Doctoral Education. Upon receipt of the report, I distributed it to all Academic Senate Committees, and specifically requested a response from the Graduate Council (GC; please see attached). The Executive Board also reviewed the document and has endorsed the GC’s response.

The UCLA Academic Senate is pleased to lend its support to the report and its recommendation, contingent upon one correction. There is an inaccuracy on page ten of the report. It states “by 2006, all UC campuses except Riverside, Merced, and San Francisco had introduced new Ed.D. programs in partnership with neighboring CSU campuses.” UCLA does not have such a program and should therefore be added to the list of exceptions.

Aside from that inaccuracy, both the GC and the Executive Board were impressed by the report’s thoughtful and systemic approach to a complex issue.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review and opine upon this issue.

Sincerely,

Michael Goldstein
UCLA Academic Senate Chair

Cc: Martha Kendall Winnacker, Executive Director, Academic Senate
    Jaime R. Balboa, CAO UCLA Academic Senate
To: Michael Goldstein, Chair, Academic Senate

From: Jan Reiff, Chair, Graduate Council

Date: November 18, 2008

RE: Report of the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate

As requested, the Graduate Council considered the Report of the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate of the UC Task Force on Planning for Doctoral & Professional Education.

The Council noted that the report contained one inaccuracy on page 10 of the report. There, the report says that “By 2006, all UC campuses except Riverside, Merced, and San Francisco had introduced new Ed.D. programs in partnership with neighboring CSU campuses.” UCLA does not have such a program.

Other than that inaccuracy, however, the Council was impressed by the report’s reasoned approach to a very complex issue and felt that it could support the recommendations as articulated. The categories of doctoral degrees the report utilized are recognized within the academy and work well to frame future discussions about new doctoral programs. Its suggestions for encouraging the ongoing cooperation between the University of California system and the California State University system seem highly appropriate, as does the need for a politically neutral adjudicating body to resolve any contested issues. The Council was also pleased with Recommendation 8 that asks APC and CCGA to assess the agreement’s effectiveness.

Should you have any questions concerning this response, please do not hesitate to contact me at extension 55029 or the Council’s analyst, Kyle Cunningham, at extension 51162.

Cc: Jaime Balboa, CAO, Academic Senate
   Kyle Cunningham, Graduate Council Analyst
Date: November 7, 2008

To: Martha Conklin, Senate Chair

Re: GRC comments on Report of the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate

The Graduate and Research Council has reviewed the report of the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate of the UC Task Force on Planning for Professional and Doctoral Education. Overall, GRC finds that the report presents a thorough analysis and list of recommendations regarding the principles that should be used to determine when such doctorates are distinct from doctorates based on research and scholarship, and therefore appropriate for the CSU to offer them (either independently or jointly with UC). Of concern to GRC is the impact that future joint UC/CSU programs may have on UC’s existing academic programs (capacity and content), and legal liability issues for UC that may arise as a result of them, and the committee wishes to emphasize the importance of the report’s recommendations regarding identification or creation of an appropriate intersegmental body for UC/CSU coordination that is academically driven, politically neutral, and analytically rigorous.

In summary, GRC is in agreement with the key recommendations of the report that UC should strive to retain sole authority to grant research/scholarship-based doctoral degrees in order to ensure effective use of public resources, and that for professional doctoral titles, UC and CSU should develop principles and a process for evaluating the appropriateness of sharing granting authority.
October 28, 2008

Mary Croughan
Professor, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences
Chair, UC Systemwide Academic Senate
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mary:

RE: REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE OF THE UC TASK FORCE ON PLANNING FOR PROFESSIONAL AND DOCTORAL EDUCATION

The above request was reviewed by the Committee on Planning and Budget, Educational Policy and Graduate Council. All the three committees unanimously support of the report and endorsed the specific recommendations of the Report.

In particular, the Committee on Planning and Budget had the following comments to make:

1. The P&B Committee endorses the establishment and use of an oversight or adjudicating board that is impartial and representative of the various constituencies involved in a proposal. The plan to consider each proposal on a case-by-case basis is also appropriate given the many issues and implications of each specific doctorate proposal.
   a. It is important that the adjudicating board also include expertise relevant to a particular proposal so that any issues unique to that program are considered thoroughly. It was not clear if this is included in the current plan.
   b. The Committee would like to review the Mission Statement of this board when it is written.

2. The P&B Committee strongly feels that both UC and CSU (1) should be involved in the initial planning stages of all such programs and (2) be able to sign off on any program that advances beyond this initial planning phase, even in cases when an institution does not foresee any further involvement.

3. Given the practical nature of these doctorate programs, a needs-base approach is appropriate for their development. As much as possible, the needs assessment must include the time it takes to establish or ramp up these programs to the doctoral level
and the anticipated costs associated with this timeline in terms of cost increases, lean budget years, and other competing market forces. Also, as much as possible, some additional funds should be included in the budget to cover unforeseen costs. It was unclear

a. how these needs will be identified and whether a need must pass some threshold of demand in the state to be considered for a doctorate program,
b. whether the resources and time required to develop and set up a doctoral program will be able to address these needs adequately and do so in a timely manner, and
c. how the actual cost of setting up and running these programs will be determined.

4. The overall cost to the state for any doctorate program must be identified and both UC and CSU must have an opportunity before final approval to review this cost and understand what the financial implications are for the universities if the program goes forward.

5. If a program has direct impact on a UC campus, e.g. through courses or facilities, will any funds be available to the Graduate Division on that campus to cover administrative and student support costs of the program?

6. What might be the implications for a UC campus that is not directly involved in a doctorate program and how will this impact be assessed? (e.g., competing for the same pool of individuals who are interested in graduate training in the state)

7. Will state funds be increasingly affected by needs-based planning at the graduate level? If so, how will this affect graduate funding in areas where UC already offers doctorate degrees?

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Anthony W. Norman
Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences; and
Chair of the Riverside Division
Mary Croughan, Chair
Academic Senate

Re: Report on the Professional Doctorate

Dear Mary,

Three Councils of the Santa Barbara Division reviewed the Report on the Professional Doctorate: Graduate Council, the Council on Planning and Budget, and the Council on Research and Instructional Resources. We offer the following comments for consideration.

Graduate Council and the Council on Planning and Budget strongly concur with the first recommendation of the Report which states that UC should retain sole authority for granting research and scholarship based doctoral degrees. Graduate Council is concerned about “accreditation creep” whereby accrediting agencies, rather than educational institutions, are determining educational requirements based on their perceived needs of the State. Graduate Council believes that UC should take a stronger role in asserting its expertise in identifying the state’s need for advanced professional degrees. The Council on Budget and Planning believes that UC needs to take a stronger stance to retain the authority to grant doctoral degrees for all fields of study including professional titles.

The Council on Research and Instructional Resources (CRIR) was disappointed in the report as they found the report and recommendations to be generally vague and non-conclusive; several recommendations stated “things should be discussed as needed.” At the same time, CRIR is strongly opposed to UC offering degrees without a strong research and/or scholarship component. They are concerned that professional degrees should not be called doctorates if they are training based programs that require an exam. Finally, CRIR did not understand the rationale for asking future committees to consider whether a specific new program proposal would support UC’s diversity goals; it is their belief that decisions about doctoral programs should be based on need and expected value, not on a potential benefit to meet UC diversity goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Joel Michaelsen, Chair,
Santa Barbara Division
November 17, 2008

Mary Croughan, Chair
Academic Council

Re: UCSC Review of Report of Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate

Dear Mary:

The UC Santa Cruz Divisional committees on Planning and Budget and Graduate Council reviewed the subcommittee report. Both find comprehensive agreement with the subcommittee recommendations. We want to highlight agreement with the recommendation for a re-invigoration of the CSU/UC Joint Graduate Board, in possible collaboration with WASC, AICCU and CPEC, as a cooperative forum for determining the appropriate authority for the granting of specific doctoral degree titles. Intersegmental discussion and collaboration are critically important for sound decision making.

Sincerely,

Lori Kletzer, Vice-Chair
Academic Senate
Santa Cruz Division
Professor Mary Croughan  
Chair, Academic Senate  
University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200

SUBJECT: Report of the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate, UC Task Force on Planning for Doctoral and Professional Education

Dear Chair Croughan:

In response to your recent request, the San Diego Division sought and received comment from the appropriate Divisional committees on the Report of the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate. The Divisional Senate Council also discussed the Report at its meeting on November 3.

The Council endorsed Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 as written. The Council was supportive of Recommendation 8 only if the language were changed to emphasize the Senate’s role in the assessment, management, and resolution processes. Our suggested language is as follows (changes are underlined): “Within the University, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs, in consultation with the Academic Planning Council, should periodically assess…."

Council members could not endorse Recommendations 4 and 7 because both Recommendations cede the Senate’s authority over determining its degrees and curricula to an outside body. In addition, reviewers did not see that an outside body would necessarily be better or more effective at resolving conflicts. Some suggested that the Intersegmental Council of Academic Senates (ICAS) would be an entirely appropriate venue for resolving any conflicts that might arise between UC and CSU and would preserve the current authority within these respective bodies.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Donoghue, Chair  
Academic Senate, San Diego Division

cc: W. Hodgkiss
November 20, 2008

Mary Croughan, PhD
Chair, Academic Council
Academic Senate, University of California
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200


Dear Chair Croughan:

The UCSF Graduate Council and Committee on Educational Policy reviewed and discussed the UC Task Force on Planning for Doctoral and Professional Education: Report of the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate. Based on their review and comments, the San Francisco Division endorses the recommendations in the report.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and discuss this report. If you have further questions, please contact me at David.Gardner@ucsf.edu.

Sincerely,

David Gardner, MD
Chair, UCSF Academic Senate
November 12, 2008

MARY CROUGHAN, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Re: Professional Doctorate

Dear Mary,

UCEP reviewed the report of the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate of the UC Task Force on Planning for Professional and Doctoral Education at its November 3rd meeting. Members commented that this report is very thorough and establishes a cooperative process between UC and the California State University system. The report does not have a significant impact on undergraduate education, nevertheless UCEP endorses the report.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. McLean, Chair
UCEP
November 18, 2008

MARY CROUGHAN, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

RE: Report of the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate of the UC Task Force on Planning for Professional and Doctoral Education (PDPE)

Dear Mary,

At its October 13 and November 10, 2008, meetings, the University Committee on Research Policy (UCORP) discussed the report and recommendations issued by the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate of the UC Task Force on Planning for Professional and Doctoral Education (PDPE). The committee has significant concerns with the report and its recommendations, focusing on the vague requirements and the unconvincing rationale offered for professional doctorates. We recommend that the proposal be sent back to its authors and that they develop a proposal whose academic guidelines adhere to UC standards for a doctorate degree or develop an alternate degree, or a certification program that does not carry the doctoral title.

The question addressed here is the appropriateness of the University of California awarding “professional doctorate” degrees. The report of the PDPE subcommittee seems to define a professional doctorate (PD) as one

“characterized by a rigorous program of course work and practica required for professions demanding a high level of knowledge and skill, and which often includes explicit preparation for examinations that lead to licensure by an external agency or board.” (page 6)

Thus, as defined, the PD is merely formal training to pass an exam, a goal which could be served by a Master’s degree, an “executive”-type Masters, or some certification program. Nowhere is it expected that recipients of professional doctorates would perform the in-depth scholarship and/or original research traditionally associated with the title “doctorate”.

Indeed, many on the committee were concerned that the PD is a co-opting by professional organizations of the honorific. The report gives the example of the field of audiology. A PD is now required for audiology because the accreditation organization has so stated. Again, there is no evidence that a higher level of scholarship and insight is required for the new title. Awarding a doctorate in such a situation – to make a profession look more learned, or merely because someone else says we must – is to cheapen the value of the degree earned by those who are required to produce significant and original research.
Additionally, potential public confusion over the meaning and credentials of their “doctor” may provide unforeseen complications. Asking UC to offer some doctorates with scholarship and other doctorates without scholarship is problematic by its very nature.

UCORP accepts that the state needs to train professionals in the areas requiring high-class titles. As the report notes, these professions are required for the well being of the state and its citizens. The argument is put forward that the UC system can award such degrees far more efficiently than the CSU system; we find this argument unconvincing. Might it not be argued that an online university could provide the degrees still more efficiently than UC? At present, CSU is permitted to offer doctorate degrees in only one field without the cooperation of the UC system. This exemption was mandated by the state legislature, and more exemptions could be expected to be brought to a vote, especially if UC does not act proactively. While we do not want to see the authority and responsibilities of UC eroded, we cannot support the present effort as we believe that the PDPE subcommittee recommendations were not based on considerations of scholarship and research, but rather of short-term political objectives.

UCORP contends that none of the recommendations reflect consideration of the present value and meaning of the “doctorate,” nor do they consider the constitutionally mandated role for the University of California to both educate and perform research for the benefit of the state. As the University Committee on Research Policy for the University of California, it is our duty to weigh in on the side of research and scholarship. It is stated on page seven of the report that “Ph.D.-granting research universities have significant advantages for offering professional doctorates. They are accustomed to offering doctoral-level training.” The committee maintains that a doctorate has always required, and should continue to require, more than mere training.

Thank you for your consideration,

James Carey, Chair
UCORP

cc: UCORP
Martha Winnacker, Executive Director, Systemwide Academic Senate
November 6, 2008

MARY CROUGHAN, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Re: UC Task Force on Planning for Professional and Doctoral Education: Report of the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate

Dear Mary,

At its October 2008 meeting, the University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB) reviewed the UC Task Force on Planning for Professional and Doctoral Education’s Report of the Subcommittee on the Professional Doctorate.

The Subcommittee’s report discusses the rise of the “professional doctorate,” and proposes principles for evaluating whether UC should offer certain professional doctoral programs, and for determining whether and when CSU and UC should share granting authority over professional doctoral titles. The report also recommends that UC strive to retain sole public authority in California over the right to grant the kind of doctorates that are based on scholarly research.

The report does a good job of identifying some of the key issues and questions facing postgraduate education in California. It provides an opportunity to discuss a longstanding debate between CSU and UC over academic “turf,” as well as long term academic planning issues facing the state. The report points to a growing demand for professional degrees such as the PharmD, EdD, and AuD, and raises a number of useful and important questions: Is UC doing enough to meet the demand for these degrees, and if not, should it do more? Should CSU have more power to grant a limited type of professional doctorate? And should UC seek to retain control over all doctorates?

At times, however, the document is also vague, and perhaps overly diplomatic. There are more questions raised than clear recommendations provided, and in several places it is unclear what the report is arguing for with regard to professional doctorates. On the one hand, it recommends that UC retain authority over research-focused doctoral education, but the authors also seem open to the possibility of loosening that authority in some cases. If the purpose and intention of the document is to argue against CSU expanding into certain doctoral areas, particularly the PhD, MD, and DVM, it should state that more consistently and explicitly.
UCPB joins the authors of the report in warning against diluting limited state funding and creating unwanted competition that serves neither public nor academic interests, and would possibly require substantial new investments.

The report leaves unclear whether there are reliable data about the marketability of newly created professional degrees, or employment data that compares research-based doctorates with related professional degrees. This information might be useful to the UC in considering the potential impact of new degrees.

In UCPB, there was some hesitancy about the cultural shift in academia toward more professional doctorates, but also a sense that UC should try to play a larger role in professional doctorates. There was also concern that sharing any degree authority with CSU could be a "slippery slope" that would eventually weaken UC’S long-standing authority within California public higher education to award individual doctoral degree titles, which could also weaken higher education in California. There should be more discussion about who will be making postdoctoral education planning decisions and what knowledge base they will use to accurately assess the future graduate training needs of the state.

UCPB supports the recommendation for maintaining an open, collegial relationship with CSU to discuss authority for new programs on a case-by-case basis. Confronting academic and professional demand in a state facing a severe budget crisis is an urgent matter, and we must work together more closely to confront the new challenges. Both segments draw on the same pool of human talent, so both should be partners in every decision of this sort and have full vetting oversight over them.

We identified several main topics of concern that we believe require more discussion:

- **Oversight body**: The report recommends using the CSU/UC Joint Graduate Board, a revitalized CPEC, or some other body to help determine authority for individual programs and mediate intersegmental issues. Granting authority to determine UC policy to a board or authority outside UC will change the nature of the bargaining between UC and CSU. Granting CPEC the authority to settle disputes could allow CSU a means to, perhaps, strategically create disputes in order to get CPEC involved in UC governance. Our recommendation is to drop recommendations 4 and 7 from the report and have the Academic Senates, or joint subcommittees thereof within CSU and UC handle the bargaining when the administrative panels fail to reach a consensual agreement.

- **Collaboration between UC and CSU**: We recommend that a clear, collaborative, written arrangement be in place that involves both CSU and UC in the development of any professional doctorate program even if only one of the institutions will be involved in the final program.

- **Need based planning**: More details regarding the needs-based planning of these programs are required, including who will determine the need; what type of timeline would be involved in setting up each program and whether it would be able to address the need; and what type of need is sufficient to pass the demand threshold for developing a professional doctorate program.
• **Impact on current doctoral programs:** There should be an evaluation during the program development phase of how any new professional program will affect graduate recruitment and training in already established doctoral programs at UC and whether certain programs will need to use clinical resources at an established medical school.

• **Fiscal impact:** The fiscal impact of this policy to the UC system, if not done correctly, is potentially disastrous. There should be a determination of whether resources will be available to meet these needs adequately and to set up and run the programs in a timely manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this report. It will be essential to have broad faculty and Academic Senate input on these questions as well as any new mechanisms for decision-making. UCPB looks forward to reviewing the other Senate responses and participating in future discussions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Patricia Conrad
UCPB Chair

cc: UCPB
Martha Winnacker, Senate Executive Director