

## **UC Academic Council Statement on Review of Standardized Testing December 20, 2019\***

Standardized test scores have long been one of several criteria used to assess admission to the University of California. [Teresa Watanabe's November 23 report](#) on the Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) meeting held at UC Berkeley on November 22 focuses on concerns about the appropriateness and reliability of standardized tests for the purposes of UC admissions. At this meeting, Chancellor Christ and Provost Brown expressed their views on these concerns, as did Chancellor LaRive in a separate statement to Watanabe. The UC Academic Senate appreciates their commitment to ensuring access to the University of California irrespective of economic and social background. This is a commitment that the UC Academic Senate emphatically shares.

Notwithstanding, the UC Academic Senate has been delegated authority over admissions by the Board of Regents. Indeed, the UC Academic Senate is presently conducting a thorough, critical, and empirically-based examination of undergraduate admissions to the University of California. At the request of President Napolitano, we convened a [Task Force](#) on standardized testing in 2019, comprised of faculty from all ten campuses. This task force has been carrying out the delicate work of offering policy recommendations on this complex issue. It has been gathering information from experts on standardized testing and the substantial body of research literature, with a view to providing a more complete picture of the role of standardized testing in UC admissions. We expect to issue an interim report to the President in early 2020, prior to the systemwide Senate review. Following Senate review, we expect that the final report, with recommendations, will be presented at the Regent's meeting in May of 2020.

Again, our goal is one that we share with the UC administration and with the Regents: to maintain the integrity and comprehensiveness of the admissions process while ensuring that our university is open to all educationally prepared undergraduate applicants regardless of income level and other barriers to access.

*\* Corrected version.*