



Kum-Kum Bhavnani
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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*

January 23, 2020

**ANNE SHAW
SECRETARY AND CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE REGENTS**

Re: Presidential Search and Public Engagement with the Special Committee

Dear Anne,

The Academic Council has endorsed the attached letter from the University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB) encouraging the Regents Special Committee for the Presidential Search to include more opportunities for unscripted engagement with campus communities.

Council agrees that it is critical for town halls, fora, and other public meetings about the search to facilitate transparent and honest engagement between the Regents and a wide range of campus constituencies. Council is pleased to see that since UCPB issued its letter, the Regents have addressed some of these concerns by scheduling additional town halls at Merced and San Diego, which make four campus-based town halls to date aimed at receiving public comment. In addition, the Council's Academic Advisory Committee has now met with the search firm for the Presidential search and discussed how the screening of candidates by the AAC will proceed. The AAC looks forward to meeting with and continuing our engagement with the Special Committee.

I would appreciate your forwarding these materials to Regent Elliott and other members of the Special Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kum-Kum Bhavnani".

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair
Academic Council

Encl.

cc: Academic Council
Chief Policy Advisor Kao



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET (UCPB)
Sean Malloy, Chair
smalloy@ucmerced.edu

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January 14, 2020

**KUM-KUM BHAVNANI, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

RE: Statement on the Presidential Search

Dear Kum-Kum,

Given the high stakes surrounding the search for a new UC president, the University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB) is concerned that the search process be as open and transparent as possible. While the final selection of the president is delegated to a Special Committee of the Regents (under Regents Standing Order 7101), in order to ensure that the new president has the trust of the University community, it is vital that this Special Committee be responsive to a wide range of views.

As has been the practice in past searches, the Academic Senate's Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) should screen all possible applicants. Also in keeping with past Regental practice in such searches, we urge that the Chair of the AAC sit in on the Special Committee's deliberations (in a non-voting role) in order to ensure a clear faculty voice in the spirit of 7101.

The Special Committee should also provide opportunities for the entire UC community, including students, faculty, and staff, to voice their opinions on the key qualifications of our future president. We are concerned that some of the various town hall and forum events organized by the Special Committee and the College Futures Foundation may not offer the opportunity for the kind of open and unscripted discussions that are a necessary part of any meaningful decision making on this crucial issue.

While we respect the complexity of the task and the need for confidential deliberations, we urge the Regents and the Special Committee to take every step possible to ensure that both the AAC and the University committee as a whole has confidence in both the process and in our future president.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Sean Malloy".

Sean Malloy, Chair
UCPB

cc: UCPB