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*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
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July 6, 2020

**JANET NAPOLITANO, PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

Re: ACA-5 and Shared Governance in the Challenges Ahead

Dear Janet,

I write on behalf of Academic Council to convey to you, and through you to the Regents, our sincere appreciation for the united stand taken by the University of California in support of Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5 (ACA-5) and the repeal of Proposition 209. As you know, the Council voted unanimously on June 9 to [endorse ACA 5](#) in recognition of the great harm done by Proposition 209 to the ability of the UC to achieve our mission of fully serving the diverse population of California. We were greatly heartened by, and appreciative of, the actions taken at the June 15 special meeting of the Regents at which the Board unanimously supported both ACA 5 and the repeal of Proposition 209.

This action was particularly significant given the unfortunate role of the University and the past Board in pushing for the enactment of Proposition 209 some 24 years ago, and we are proud that the university now stands on the right side of history as we look forward to addressing the pressing needs of this moment. As Chair Pérez noted in his remarks on June 15, “There is amazing momentum for righting the wrongs caused by centuries of systemic racism in our country.” Council stands ready to join with our partners in shared governance at the Office of the President and the Board of Regents to make good on this promise with both words and deeds.

Among American universities, the University of California has led the way in speaking – and acting – in service of a more just, equitable, and sustainable society. On issues of fossil fuel divestment, DACA and undocumented students, open access to research, standardized testing, UC policing, and now affirmative action, our constitution of shared governance has brought an exceptional level of thought and wisdom to judgments. Going forward, the Academic Senate looks to work in concert with the Board of Regents on the most pressing issues facing higher education and its role in contemporary society. The coming months and years will be trying, perhaps more so than any other time in the history of the University. We have a century of shared governance to call on to steer us through the uncharted waters, and the Academic Senate looks forward to working with the Board of Regents and the Office of the President to steer us ultimately to safe harbor.

We request that you share this letter with the Board of Regents.

Sincerely,

Kum-Kum Bhavnani .

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair
Academic Council

cc: Provost Brown
Academic Council
Senate Directors