JANET NAPOLITANO, PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: Feasibility Study for Standardized Testing

Dear Janet,

We write following the May 2020 Regents’ decision that UC, possibly with CSU, develop a new suite of assessments that could be used by Fall 2025 applicants as part of their application to UC.

The Regents’ decision included a feasibility study that would be started almost immediately, in summer 2020, and completed by January 2021. This study would specify the elements that need to be considered when developing a new suite of assessments. We understand that Provost Brown and his office will be in charge of this study. Guided as we are by the principles of shared governance and given the significance of the work ahead for admissions into the UC, which falls under the delegated authorities of the Academic Senate, it is evident that the feasibility study work group must have robust Senate membership.

To that end, Academic Council proposes the following:

1. That a Feasibility Study Working Group (FSWG) be set up in the coming two weeks. Its scope would be to outline the necessary elements and timeline in order that a new suite of assessments be available for Fall 2025 applicants.
2. We suggest that the FSWG be co-chaired by Provost Brown and the incoming Academic Senate chair, and have approximately 12 to 15 members, including at least seven Senate members, with representation from the STTF, BOARS, UCEP, UCAADE, UCOPE, and UCPB.
3. That key to the scope of the FSWG’s is to examine how UC and CSU could collaborate to develop a new suite of content-based assessments.
4. That the FSWG submit an interim report by fall 2020. At minimum, this report will include an overall timeline for the development of the suite of assessments.
5. That the FSWG submit a draft of its final report for discussion at the December 2020 meeting of the Academic Council.

Sincerely,
Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair
Academic Council

cc: Provost Brown
Chief of Staff to the President Kao
Chief of Staff to the Provost Peterson
Academic Council
Senate Directors