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*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate  
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1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
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April 20, 2023

**KATHERINE S. NEWMAN  
PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

**Re: Conditions of Approval of Proposal for UC Berkeley College of Computing, Data Science and Society (CDSS)**

Dear Provost Newman:

In accordance with procedures outlined in the *Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Units, and Research Units* (the “Compendium”), the Academic Council at its March 29, 2023 meeting approved a motion to endorse the establishment of the College of Computing, Data Science and Society (CDSS) contingent on UC Berkeley successfully meeting conditions by September 30, 2023 as outlined in our April 3, 2023 letter to you. Compendium procedures in the case of approvals with conditions, such as was the case here, dictate that “the resolution of key issues raised by the reviews” is to be accomplished by the systemwide provost working with the campus chancellor. In our April 3, 2023 letter, we articulated eight conditions to be addressed by the campus, one by the Berkeley Division Academic Senate, and a final requirement for the conveying of requested materials to both the systemwide and Berkeley Division Senates.

The Senate recognizes that creating a new college is a process that will evolve over time. In our review of materials forwarded to us yesterday, we are pleased to see:

- 1) The requested comprehensive MOU between the deans of the College of Engineering and CDSS. The MOU clearly articulates both current plans for managing the Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences Department (EECS) with unambiguous allocation of responsibilities for implementation, as well as plans for managing potentially emerging situations or resolving points of disagreement.
- 2) A letter of support from the executive dean of the College of Letters and Science (L&S) articulating both expectations and commitment of resources. Also included is an MOU executed between the two deans outlining a clear path forward as the CDSS matures.
- 3) A letter of support from the L&S Faculty Executive Committee. While it raises some remaining issues that require attention, it also indicates an intended strategy to resolve these matters.
- 4) Letters of support from academic departments that will be substantial contributors to the new college. All are quite positive and indicate strong commitment to the endeavor.

- 5) While the Senate requested the constituting of the Human Technology Futures group as an augmented graduate group (AGG) within CDSS, the short time frame in which Berkeley chose to respond made this an impossibility. However, the Senate is reassured by the well-articulated plans for doing so. This bodes well for its successful launch. As our deadline is September 30, 2023, we welcome, but do not require, being updated on the AGG's eventual formation.
- 6) Letters of support with votes from the majority of units that wish to move to CDSS. The I-School, on reflection, chose to remain independent but with a dotted reporting line to the CDSS. The I-School and the EVC/P have executed an MOU to that effect outlining the ways in which the I-School will contribute to the CDSS but maintain its independence. This is an acceptable compromise for the Senate.
- 7) Plans are articulated in the material for faculty leadership within the CDSS as it evolves.
- 8) Plans are also articulated for developing Senate bylaws once the CDSS is established.

We have also received assurances from the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate on how they will provide representation, without duplication, to the EECS Senate faculty. And finally, as requested, we have received copies of all materials addressing the conditions that were set.

The Senate is prepared to state that our conditions have been met. We greatly appreciate the efforts of the Berkeley administration and Academic Senate in finding resolutions to the remaining concerns identified in the systemwide Senate review. We applaud both EVC/P Hermalin and Division Chair Smart for their wisdom, diligence, and negotiating skills in bringing together all units that will be impacted by the establishment of a new college. The support net that has been woven for the new CDSS portends a robust thriving of the newest Berkeley entity.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Susan Cochran, Chair  
Academic Council

Cc: UCB Senate Division Chair Smart  
Academic Council Vice Chair Steintrager  
CCGA Chair Jaffe-Berg  
UCEP Chair Cocco  
UCPB Chair Senear  
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