December 13, 2022

MICHAEL DRAKE, PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: UC Entry Level Writing Requirement Fee

Dear President Drake:

At its November 21 meeting, the Academic Council endorsed the attached request from the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) to seek confirmation from your office that UCOP will require campuses to use revenue from the new Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) fee only to support writing placement at the campuses. While your July 1, 2022 letter to chancellors and vice chancellors for budget and planning suggests this as the expected outcome, there is a concern that campuses could redirect fee revenue to other purposes. Efforts to monitor the use of the fee revenue to ensure accountability would be appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Susan Cochran, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: Academic Council
UCOPE
Provost Brown
Chief of Staff Kao
Chief Policy Advisor McAuliffe
Executive Director Lin

Encl.
SUSAN COCHRAN, CHAIR
ACADEMIC SENATE

RE: UC Entry Level Writing Requirement Fee

Dear Susan:

I write on behalf of the UC Committee on Preparatory Education in my capacity as chair regarding the recent UC Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Fee approved by President Drake in July 2022. The language of that policy states “Revenue from the fee shall pay for campus costs related to the administration of writing placement processes that would allow students to be placed into an appropriate writing course and satisfy the University’s ELWR.”

It is UCOPE’s concern that, without explicit earmarking of these funds, campuses might redirect monies to endeavors not directly tied to writing placement. The committee asks that Academic Council seek confirmation from President Drake that the revenue from this fee will strictly be used to support writing placement at the campuses, and we request that this information is transmitted to the relevant administrators at the campuses.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best wishes,

Eileen Camfield, Chair
University Committee on Preparatory Education
Dear Colleagues:

Consistent with my authority under Bylaw 30, President of the University, I am approving a new fee, the UC Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Fee, effective after the last central administration of the Analytic Writing Placement Examination (AWPE) in May 2022. The ELWR Fee replaces the AWPE Fee and is set at a maximum rate of $110. Revenue from the fee shall pay for campus costs related to the administration of writing placement processes that would allow students to be placed into an appropriate writing course and satisfy the University’s ELWR. In recognition of the hardship that this fee may place on some students, campuses must ensure the availability of waivers to cover the cost of the ELWR Fee for students with financial need. Chancellors are authorized to set the ELWR Fee level commensurate with documented campus costs in an amount up to, but not to exceed, the maximum approved rate. Any increase to the fee level above the approved rate requires Presidential approval. Campuses are to notify UCOP of the ELWR Fee level when first set.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Associate Vice President David Alcocer. He can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9113, or by email at david.alcocer@ucop.edu.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

cc: Associate Vice President Alcocer
Chief of Staff Kao
Executive Director Yoon-Wu
Executive Director Baxter
Associate Director Hardy
Director Diaz