**Office of the President**

**TO MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:**

## ACTION ITEM

*For Meeting of January 24, 2018*

**ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ACADEMIC VERIFICATION TASK FORCE**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2017, President Napolitano convened the Academic Verification Task Force to develop recommendations to improve practices and policies regarding the ways in which campuses solicit and verify the academic credentials of new undergraduate students. At the November 2017 Regents' meeting, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee discussed the interim report and recommendations of the Task Force. This item presents a proposal to endorse the recommendations of the Task Force's final report.

## RECOMMENDATION

The President of the University recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommend that the Regents endorse the recommendations of the Academic Verification Task Force, as shown in Attachment 1.

## BACKGROUND

Each spring and summer, in the last stage of preparing a class for enrollment in the fall term, UC campuses verify the academic accomplishments of admitted students to ensure that they have met all conditions of their admission to UC. Typically, campuses request official high school and community college transcripts as well as official test scores to verify that the student earned, for example, a high school diploma, completed all necessary "a-g" courses, maintained at least a C average in the senior year of high school, and/or completed major-preparation requirements for transfer at the junior level.

UC's academic verification process, similar to processes conducted at colleges and universities across the country, is designed to ensure the integrity of the University's admissions process by verifying the credentials of the students it admits. However, after a high-profile incident at the UC Irvine campus, in which the admissions of nearly 500 students were withdrawn for their failure to submit needed documents or meet other conditions of admission, critics suggested that current practices might be too harsh and not in the best interests of serving new undergraduate students. Although UC Irvine's Chancellor reinstated students who were affected, confusion and

criticism with regard to the University's new student verification practices needed to be addressed. In response to this incident and to ensure consistency across the UC system, President Napolitano established an Academic Verification Task Force to assess UC's policies and practices, and to make recommendations to the Regents.

At the November 2017 Regents' meeting, Provost Brown presented the findings and recommendations from the Academic Verification Task Force's interim report. Since that time, the Task Force has finalized its report, incorporating suggestions from the Committee at its November 2017 meeting and including additional comments from Task Force members. In the final report, which can be found in Attachment 1, the Task Force offers seven recommendations to ensure consistency in the application of academic verification processes across the system. In total, these recommendations:

- Affirm that the academic verification process will be used for no other purpose than confirming the qualifications of new students for admission to the University;

- Commit all campuses to formally notify – in a manner consistent with best practices – all new students of the importance of submitting official transcripts and test scores prior to the systemwide deadline; and to notify all new students that their admission may be withdrawn if they do not submit all necessary documents to confirm their academic qualifications for admission; and

- Obligate all campuses to provide an appeal process for any student whose admission has been withdrawn for non-receipt of official transcripts and/or test scores.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Academic Verification Task Force; Final Recommendations to Enhance Academic Verification

Attachment 2: Campus Admission Verification Processes and Policies: Final Report of the Academic Verification Task Force