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July 9, 2018

PROVOST BROWN  
ACADEMIC SENATE CHAIR WHITE  
ACADEMIC SENATE VICE CHAIR MAY

Dear Michael, Shane and Robert:

Now that we have a final 2018-19 State budget for UC, University leadership—including Chair Kieffer, other members of the Board of Regents, and I—are looking ahead beyond the current year. As I mentioned at the June 27 Academic Council meeting, we are developing a multi-year budget and enrollment plan that would lay out our capacity (both limits and opportunities) and resource needs—for permanent, ongoing funding—over the next four years to accommodate further growth and continue the excellence in research, education, and public service that is the hallmark of UC. I look forward to partnering with many stakeholders, including the faculty, in this effort.

Part of this effort will include assessing the University's needs and the State's needs in the context of meeting our commitment to the California Master Plan for Higher Education. Hence, this seems like a good opportunity to review the role of admissions tests in UC eligibility and admissions, something I understand the Board on Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) does periodically but may not have done since 2010. I request, therefore, that the Academic Senate, through BOARS, examine the current use of standardized tests for UC admission; review the testing principles developed in 2002 and revised in 2010; and determine whether any changes in admission testing policies or practices are necessary to ensure that the University continues to use standardized tests in an appropriate way. This is particularly important given UC policy changes enacted since 2010 (e.g., expansion of the Eligibility in the Local Context pathway; introduction of Entitled to Review category; and the elimination of the SAT Subject Tests as a requirement for eligibility) and the unprecedented growth in demand among high school graduates for a UC education.

I would appreciate receiving periodic updates on BOARS' work in this area and hope that they can conclude their review by the end of the 2018-19 academic year.

Provost Brown, Academic Senate Chair White, and Academic Senate Vice Chair May  
July 9, 2018  
Page 2

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Yours very truly,



Janet Napolitano  
President

cc: BOARS Chair Sanchez  
BOARS Vice Chair Comeaux  
Executive Vice President Nava  
Vice President Brown  
Vice President Robin Holmes-Sullivan  
Chief Policy Advisor Kao  
Interim Associate Vice President and Director Yoon-Wu  
Executive Director Baxter, Academic Senate  
Interim Chief of Staff to the Provost Peterson