

**Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff**

**TO MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNANCE AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE:**

**ACTION ITEM**

**For Meeting of November 14, 2018**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF REGENTS' SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BASIC NEEDS**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Chair Kieffer and Regent Graves propose the establishment of a special committee on basic needs. Basic needs refer to the resources required for students to be successful, which includes access to nutritious food, stable housing, and financial support. Over one-quarter of graduate students and nearly half of undergraduate students across the University of California experience basic needs insecurity. Research has demonstrated that basic needs security is a key factor in student retention, as well as in academic achievement. While UC has emerged as a national leader in addressing basic needs insecurity, a long-term plan for ensuring food, housing, and financial security is needed. Through this Special Committee, the Regents will be able to provide leadership on the development of sustainable strategies to address basic needs across the University. Creation of the Special Committee will provide the Regents with greater understanding about campus, state, and national trends on how to address basic needs. The proposal seeks to establish the Special Committee for two years, with the charge of developing a long-term strategic vision for addressing student basic needs at the University of California. As provided in the proposed Charter, membership of the Special Committee will be determined by the Chair of the Board in consultation with the Chair of the Governance and Compensation Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Chair Kieffer and Regent Graves recommend that the Governance and Compensation Committee recommend that the Regents:

- A. Establish the Special Committee on Basic Needs for a two-year period, effective upon approval.
- B. Adopt the Special Committee on Basic Needs Charter as shown in Attachment 1.
- C. Review the need for the continuation of the Special Committee by November 2020.

## **BACKGROUND**

According to data reported in the UC Global Food Initiative Food and Housing Security report, 44 percent of undergraduate students and 26 percent of graduate students are experiencing food insecurity. Similarly, with regard to housing insecurity, five percent of undergraduate and graduate students lack a regular and adequate residence. The University and its campuses have made great strides in addressing the issue of basic needs through the establishment of a systemwide basic needs working group under the President's Global Food Initiative, and through individual campus initiatives. These include providing emergency food relief through pantries and meal vouchers, creating emergency grants, expanding CalFresh access, developing emergency housing protocols for students in crisis, and engaging in skills-based education about basic needs. While these initiatives provide critical support, basic needs insecurity continues to persist. Because of the impact of food and housing insecurity on students' physical, emotional, and academic well-being, a sustainable plan for addressing basic needs across UC is needed. Through this Special Committee, the Regents will provide guidance for sustaining existing efforts and developing long-term strategies to address basic needs.

The purpose of the Special Committee is for the Regents to provide long-term strategic vision to the campuses and State of California regarding how to address students' basic needs throughout the University.

### **ATTACHMENT:**

[Attachment 1: Special Committee on Basic Needs Charter](#)