



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
1111 Franklin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200

December 4, 2023

**SENATE DIVISION CHAIRS  
CHAIR OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS  
CHAIRS OF UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES ON RESEARCH POLICY, PLANNING  
AND BUDGET, EDUCATIONAL POLICY, AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION,  
DIVERSITY & EQUITY**

**Re: Interim Report of the Academic Planning Council Workgroup on the Future of  
Doctoral Education at the University of California**

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, a joint administration/Senate working group was appointed in the summer of 2023 to advise the University community on the future of graduate education. Co-chaired by UCSB Senate Division Chair Susannah Scott and UCI Dean of Graduate Studies Gillian Hayes, this group has been hard at work on a report that is due in the spring term of 2024. To date, they have developed a draft that covers many vital questions and issues that are—in many respects—foundational to the additional topics they will be exploring in the time that remains.

The co-chairs have asked us to distribute the attached draft both to request feedback and encourage the adoption of some of its provisions to prepare for the upcoming 2024-25 academic year. Accordingly, we ask that you review this draft, circulate it to your colleagues (vice provosts, deans, department chairs, directors of graduate programs, relevant Academic Senate committees) and anyone else that you think would be interested. We leave it to you to decide the most useful way to prompt discussions on your campus of the recommendations it provides, knowing that campuses are the “action” venues for policy changes of this kind.

To make it easier to assemble feedback, we have provided the following [Google form](#) where individual faculty members, administrators, and others can submit ideas and input. For committees or groups who would prefer to review and submit consolidated feedback, please send input to Co-Chairs Hayes and Scott via email (to [hayesg@uci.edu](mailto:hayesg@uci.edu) and [sscott@ucsb.edu](mailto:sscott@ucsb.edu)).

We know it takes time to read and reflect on these materials but would nonetheless be grateful if you could share any comments at your earliest convenience, ideally by Friday, December 22. We realize that for committees, it may be difficult to respond within this timeframe; we request submission of comments as soon as feasible.

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The final report will be publicly available in the spring term; it will be measurably improved by your thoughts on this draft.

Sincerely,



Katherine S. Newman  
UC System Provost and  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



James Steintrager  
Chair, Academic Council  
UC Systemwide Academic Senate

UC Berkeley Chancellor's Distinguished  
Professor of Sociology & Public Policy

Attachment

Cc: Academic Council  
Senate Division Executive Directors  
Senate Executive Director Lin