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 and
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.
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

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

James Steintrager
Chair, Academic Council
UC Systemwide Academic Senate

Attachment

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