

November XX, 2019

TO: 13 Faculty TBD

**RE: Interdisciplinary Education *Ad Hoc* Committee**

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Interdisciplinary Education *Ad Hoc* Committee, an *ad hoc* committee of the Executive Board. The University of California as a system, and UCLA in particular, are in the midst of profound change. Changes in long-term leadership, fluctuations in state support, and a new campus budget model make this an opportune moment to examine the ways in which UCLA fosters and supports interdisciplinary education. For the purposes of this committee, interdisciplinary education is defined as curricular and programmatic offerings occurring outside traditional academic department structures. This committee is explicitly charged to focus on educational programs and structures, as opposed to research activities and structures. Specifically, the committee is tasked as follows:

**I. Authority**

This committee is an *ad hoc* committee comprised of members of the Executive Board, Undergraduate Council, Graduate Council, Council on Planning and Budget, and at-large faculty members. The committee will offer recommendations to the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils and the Executive Vice Chancellor/Provost concerning interdisciplinary education at UCLA.

**II. Appointment**

The committee shall convene for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year and may be re-convened or re-appointed in 2020-2021, if necessary. Eric Wells, Estrella Arciba, and April de Stefano will provide administrative and research support to the committee and will serve as non-voting, standing guests.

**III. Charge to the Committee**

The committee is formally charged to:

- a. Identify and delineate the various structures (e.g. IDPs, Centers for Interdisciplinary Instruction (CIIs), Free-Standing Minors (FSM), school-wide programs, programs overseen by multiple departments, etc.) that support interdisciplinary programs and education on campus. The committee should consider whether existing structures are adequate. If certain structures appear to be obsolete, or are proving unsuccessful in supporting interdisciplinary education, consider the creation of alternative structures.
- b. Make an inventory of existing interdisciplinary programs and conduct an assessment of the available Academic Senate reviews for these programs.
- c. Establish clear guidelines, principles, and criteria regarding the appropriate use of the structures identified in a.

- d. Establish standards for guidelines regarding the minimum resourcing (i.e. space, faculty involvement, staff, student, and financial support) of the structures identified in a.
- e. Establish clear guidelines for the establishment of new interdisciplinary programs.
- f. Review existing Appendix V procedures (i.e. the policies and procedures for the disestablishment, transfer, or consolidation of academic programs and units) and propose reforms if necessary.
- g. Recommend to the Executive Vice Chancellor/Provost budgetary systems/processes that will encourage and support interdisciplinary education on campus.

#### **IV. Meeting Frequency**

The Committee should meet as frequently as specific tasks require, but no less than once per month through Spring 2020. The Committee is empowered to form workgroups or appoint representatives to examine specific issues, meet with affiliated program faculty or their representatives, and to meet with members of the Administration. I respectfully request that, if possible, you submit your recommendations to the Executive Board by **May XX, 2020.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Eric Wells.

Sincerely,

Michael Meranze