



GARY S. MAY  
Chancellor

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR  
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE  
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8558  
TELEPHONE: (530) 754-7237

May 1, 2019

Arnette Bates, Director, Educational Opportunity Program, Advising and Retention Services  
Kevin Blue, Director, Athletics  
Kayton Carter, Director, Strategic African American Retention Initiatives  
Sue Ebeler, Associate Dean, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences  
Danica Tisdale Fisher, Director, Summer Sessions  
Beth Floyd, Director, Undergraduate Education and Advising  
Annaliese Franz, Director, Undergraduate Research Center, Chemistry  
Helen Frasier, Assistant Vice Provost, Undergraduate Education  
Simona Ghetti, Psychology  
Michele Igo, Associate Dean, College of Biological Sciences  
Erika Jackson, Assistant Director, Student Success, Budget & Institutional Analysis  
Katrina Jessoe, Agricultural and Resource Economics, Undergraduate Council Member  
Ari Kelman, Associate Dean, College of Letters & Science  
Ebony Lewis, Director, Admissions  
Tim Lewis, Mathematics  
Dan Potter, Undergraduate Council Chair, Plant Sciences  
Jim Schaaf, Associate Dean, College of Engineering  
Matthew Stratton, Preparatory Education Committee Member, English  
Carolyn Thomas, Dean and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (Chair)

Re: Closing the Preparation Gap – Task Force Report

Dear Colleagues:

We write to thank you for your outstanding report addressing the topic of closing the preparation gap at UC Davis. It presents a clear articulation of the opportunities and challenges facing the campus in pursuing uniform outcomes of student success, despite the often vast discrepancies in pre-matriculation preparation for subsets of our admitted students. The report also presents a clear set of recommendations to address these opportunities and challenges. We sincerely thank you all for the care with which your report thoughtfully addresses this important topic.

Your report is all the more timely given the recent completion of the campus strategic plan, *To Boldly Go*, which includes this goal: “Take bold steps to close gaps in academic outcomes for students from underrepresented, first generation and socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.” The report and recommendations you have suggested will require consideration by both the Davis Division of the Academic Senate and campus administration. We look forward to working together with our Senate colleagues to give thought to and move ahead on your recommendations.

Closing the Preparation Gap Task Force

May 1, 2019

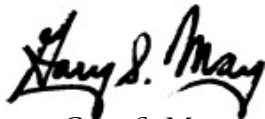
Page 2

In this regard, we have submitted your report, along with a separate but in many ways complementary report on writing that was co-charged by the Provost and Academic Senate Chair, to the Academic Senate with a request for formal consultation by the appropriate Senate committees. The reports, though they have different starting points and goals, also contain significant areas of overlap, particularly with respect to Entry Level Writing Requirements (ELWR) and Workload 57 writing courses. This is an area within which both the Academic Senate and Administration have identified concerns, and indeed was one of the driving factors behind the charging of these separate task forces. We look forward to receiving the Senate's feedback in order to further guide and refine our efforts to implement the report's recommendations.

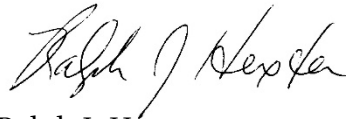
We acknowledge that the report recommendations will require additional resources, and we are working diligently to plan for such needs in this year's campus budget process. We also plan to post the report on the Provost's website under 'Initiatives,' in order to publicize its availability to the broader campus community and promote further dialogue on this important topic.

Thank you again for your outstanding work, and special thanks to Vice Provost and Dean Thomas for her leadership.

Best regards,



Gary S. May  
Chancellor



Ralph J. Hexter  
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

/am