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Director Barbara Aguirre, Academic Employment and Labor Relations
Executive Director Gina Anderson, Academic Senate, Davis Division
Professor Kent Erickson, Cell Biology and Human Anatomy
Professor Susan Kaiser, Textiles and Clothing/Women and Gender Studies
Executive Associate Dean Jim MacDonald, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Director Carina Celesia Moore, Staff Development and Professional Services
Professor Bruno Nachtergaele, Department of Mathematics
Dean Jessie Ann Owens, Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies (chair)
Director Binnie Singh, Academic Affairs
Lecturer John Stenzel, University Writing Program
Specialist Yajarayma Tang-Feldman, UCDHS, Division of Infectious Diseases
Professor Catherine Vandervoort, California National Primate Research Center

RE: Provost's Working Group on the Role of the Academic Federation in Achieving the Vision of Excellence

Dear Colleagues:

The University of California, Davis, is justifiably proud to have recognized in chartering the Academic Federation, the rich and crucial ways in which the non-Senate academic community contributes to the University's mission. As research scientists, adjunct faculty, lecturers, librarians, program coordinators, specialists, clinicians, and in many other roles, the large and varied group of Federation employees are key to our efforts to achieve excellence in every aspect of research, teaching, and service. Federation members are truly important to the classroom, the research laboratory, and the extension of knowledge created here in public service to our state, the nation, and the world.

As such, Federation employees are essential to our efforts to attain the goals articulated in *UC Davis: A Vision of Excellence*. We expect much of Federation members, who are respected partners in dialog, as we work together to advance the goals of the campus. It is thus important to consider whether our campus policies, processes, and practices are aligned with the roles we expect the Federation to play in our drive toward excellence.

I am writing to invite your participation in a Working Group on the Role of the Academic Federation in Achieving the Vision of Excellence. The group will comprise both Senate and Federation members, as well as representatives of the Vice Provost—Academic Affairs and the

Associate Vice Chancellor—Human Resources, whose participation will bring to the table in-depth understanding of the academic personnel processes that apply to Federation employees, and ensure that we do not stray into matters that should be addressed in collective bargaining.

The specific charge to the working group will be to produce a white paper for review by Chancellor Katehi, with circulation upon her approval to the Senate, the Federation, deans, and department chairs, which considers the following questions:

- What are the roles of Federation employees in achieving the Vision of Excellence? How are these roles changing today? How can they be expected to change in the future?
- What concerted efforts by the campus are necessary to ensure that Federation members are enabled to fully contribute to the Vision of Excellence?
- What campus policies, procedures and practices facilitate the contributions of Federation employees?
- What campus policies, procedures, and practices are obstacles—or may become obstacles in time?

We are hoping to call one organizational meeting over the summer, but the primary work of the committee will begin in September. Staff will contact you shortly to schedule the committee's first meeting. You need not respond to this letter unless you are unable to serve.

I very much appreciate your participation in this important working group, which seeks to reaffirm the Federation's role with renewed clarity and vigor vis-à-vis the campus-wide goals stated in *A Vision of Excellence*.

Sincerely,



Ralph J. Hexter
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

/mbm

c: Chancellor Katehi
Academic Senate Chair Powell
Academic Federation Chair Wilson