

December 1, 2015

Cathy Koshland, Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education (VCUE)
Ben Hermalin, Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate (non-voting)
Anthony Cascardi, Dean, L&S Arts and Humanities Division
Steve Martin, Dean, L&S Biological Sciences Division
Douglas Clark, Dean, College of Chemistry
Shankar Sastry, Dean, College of Engineering
Jennifer Wolch, Dean, College of Environmental Design
Keith Gillless, Dean, College of Natural Resources
Richard Lyons, Dean, Haas School of Business
Frances Hellman, Dean, L&S Mathematical and Physical Sciences Division
Carla Hesse, Executive Dean, College of Letters & Science and Dean, L&S Social Sciences Division
Bob Jacobsen, Interim Dean, L&S Undergraduate Studies Division

Re: Council of College Deans

We are writing to invite you to serve on the inaugural Council of College Deans for an initial two (2) year term. The aim of the Council of College Deans is to define the responsibilities for delivering the curricular initiatives hereafter referred to as the Berkeley Curriculum and to recommend a governance model for the allocation of financial and physical resources necessary to support the implementation of the Undergraduate Initiative. The Council will report to Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost (EVCP) Claude Steele, be convened by Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education (VCUE) Cathy Koshland, and supported by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education. Meetings will be held on a bi-weekly basis for the academic year 2015-16, and monthly thereafter. The purpose, structure, and membership of the Council will be assessed by the end of two years and a plan developed for continuation will be submitted to us at that time.

Specifically, the Council will be responsible for nurturing and supporting development of the proposed "College for Berkeley" to ensure the implementation of the Berkeley Curriculum and other crucial academic elements of the Undergraduate Initiative. In particular, the Council will:

- Recommend to the EVCP a governance model for the allocation of financial and physical resources necessary to support the implementation of the Undergraduate Initiative and to define the responsibilities for delivering the Berkeley Curriculum.
- Function as a coordinating body for curriculum planning and implementation (with full deference to the appropriate role of the Academic Senate in curricular matters), including addressing capped majors, prerequisites and the shared interdependence of the curriculum.
- Support and reinforce the articulation between the divisions and colleges to ensure implementation of the aspects of the Undergraduate Initiative that pertain to the upper division and advanced study. As deemed appropriate, the Council will refer policy matters as appropriate to the Academic Senate (including bodies within the schools and colleges).
- Monitor the distribution of responsibilities and accountability across colleges, professional schools and units for both the lower division curriculum and the interdependencies across the upper division.
- Consider and address the academic and support needs of four-year, transfer, and international students, including issues of students' access to their desired courses and majors. The Council

will consult with the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (VCSA), the Vice Chancellor for Equity & Inclusion (VCEI), with Admissions & Enrollment and other units on these issues.

- Recommend resources and resource allocations for curriculum implementation to support collaborative efforts like interdisciplinary majors or minors across the schools and colleges.
- Vet and recommend to us a fundraising plan for the Undergraduate Initiative to support undergraduate education and the undergraduate experience.

We believe that your valuable and informed perspectives will contribute to the success of these endeavors. Please reply to interim chief of staff Molly Vitorte at vitorte@berkeley.edu to confirm your ability to serve.

Thank you for your willingness to contribute to this very important effort.

Sincerely,



Nicholas B. Dirks
Chancellor



Claude M. Steele
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

cc: Nils Gilman
Phyllis Hoffman
Molly Vitorte

1 Note: the VCUE, in consultation with the Interim Dean of Undergraduate Studies, is charged with coordinating with the VCEI, VCSA and other Vice Chancellors as needed to address other aspects of the undergraduate experience. Additionally, this collaboration will enable communication and consultation between the Council and other entities supporting the Undergraduate Initiative.