

May 10, 2016

**To: Academic Senate Members of the Davis Division**

Dear Colleagues,

A redacted version of my report regarding allegations against a graduate student has been posted to the [Davis Division of the Academic Senate homepage](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Knoesen", written in a cursive style.

André Knoesen  
Chair, Academic Senate  
Professor: Electrical and Computer Engineering

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**Academic Senate Report**

André Knoesen

Davis Academic Senate Chair

5/10/2016

*Allegation: "More recently, it appears not only that the academic program in which your son holds a paid research position was moved into the same department in which your daughter-in-law is employed, but also that the program was placed under her direct supervision. It does not appear that appropriate steps were taken to address, document or obtain approval for the fact that your son now reported to your daughter in-law, who, in turn, was supervised by one of your direct reports."*

**Given privacy concerns, some information has been redacted from this copy of the report. The graduate student in question has given permission for this redacted version to be shared. An unredacted copy of this report is being provided to Melinda Haag, the investigator.**

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2 **Summary of Facts:**

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- [REDACTED] is a graduate student in the Epidemiology Graduate Group.

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- Professor Adela de la Torre is the chair of the dissertation committee of [REDACTED] which consists of two additional faculty members.

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- Dr. Adela de la Torre, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, heads the Division of Student Affairs.

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- Dr. Adela de la Torre is a senior faculty member and researcher for the Center of Transnational Health.

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- The Center for Transnational Health was founded in 2004 by Dr. De la Torre and Elizabeth Bishay who currently serves as Director of External Grants.

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- A center is "A small unit, sometimes one of several forming an Institute, that furthers research in a designated field; or, a unit engaged primarily in providing research facilities for other units and departments, (page 29, UC Compendium). While some centers are created following UC processes (page 29), it has become increasingly common for "Centers" on UC campuses to be created via an informal mechanism, this occurs throughout the UC in addition to UC Davis. It appears that the Center of Transnational Health has been created using the informal approach and includes faculty and researchers from different schools and colleges, which is often a motivating factor in the creation of a center (see Appendix 1)

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- Six graduate students are associated with the Center for Transnational Health (see Appendix 1)

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- During the Academic Senate investigation it was found that in January 2016 the administrative home of the Center of Transnational Health was moved from the Department of Chicana/Chicano Studies to Student Affairs.<sup>1</sup> The Center of Transnational Health was previously administered by the Department of Chicana/Chicano Studies, the home department of Dr. de la Torre.

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- The department or other administrative unit "home" of a center provides it with administrative support functions (payroll, etc.). The educational or supervisory functions of a center, in this case the Center of Transnational Health, are not controlled by the administrative unit. Furthermore, within a center, if there is a grant funding graduate student researchers (GSRs) and postdoctoral researchers, as in this case there is the USDA AFRI grant, the research of the GSRs is supervised either by the principle investigator or the co-principle investigators (faculty, either Academic Senate or Academic Federation) .

- 1 • Dr. Banafsheh Sadeghi, a member of the Academic Federation, is a co-Principal Investigator on  
2 the USDA AFRI grant. A Principal Investigator is the holder of a grant or contract administered by  
3 a University and lead researcher on that grant or contract.
- 4 • Dr. Banafsheh Sadeghi has been [REDACTED] GSR research supervisor since 7/1/15.
- 5 • [REDACTED] GSRship (Research Assistant payroll title) is paid from a USDA AFRI grant that is  
6 managed by the Center of Transnational Health.
- 7 • [REDACTED] GSR appointment is at a typical percent for his graduate group.
- 8 • [REDACTED] did not receive any additional compensation from the Division of Student  
9 Affairs or Center of Transnational Health.

10 **Background:**

11 **The authority of Academic Senate over graduate education:** The Divisional Academic Senate of each  
12 UC campus appoints a Graduate Council responsible for academic matters related to graduate education  
13 on the UC Davis campus. Graduate Council makes recommendations concerning new programs leading  
14 to existing graduate degrees, and the qualifications of departments and graduate groups for initiating  
15 new programs leading to existing graduate degrees and numerous other matters germane to graduate  
16 affairs (for more information see <https://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/faculty-staff/graduate-council>).

17 The Division of Academic Senate operates under the Code of the Academic Senate that contains specific  
18 Bylaws and Regulations. One regulation is particularly relevant is Davis Division Bylaw 80 :

19 "80. Graduate Council

20 A. This council shall consist of twelve Senate members (including a chair, a vice chair, and  
21 the Dean of Graduate Studies non-voting ex officio), four graduate student representatives (the  
22 Graduate Student Assistant to the Dean and Chancellor selected by Graduate Studies, the  
23 Graduate Student Association Chair, the GSA Vice Chair, a fourth graduate student selected by  
24 GSA) two postdoctoral scholar representatives (the Postdoctoral Scholar Association Chair and  
25 another postdoctoral scholar selected by the PSA) and two representatives appointed by the  
26 Davis Academic Federation. The Dean of Graduate Studies shall not be chair or vice chair. A chair  
27 and vice-chair of this council shall be named by the Committee on Committees. Any member  
28 from the Davis Division on the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs who is not a regular  
29 member of the Graduate Council shall be an additional ex officio member of this council. The  
30 council shall be organized into subcommittees to facilitate the conduct of its business.  
31 Subcommittees of the Graduate Council shall be appointed by the Chair and shall serve from the  
32 first day of September each year. Deans of Graduate Studies may be appointed to  
33 subcommittees but shall not serve as chair of any subcommittee. The Chair of the Graduate  
34 Council shall appoint additional Academic Senate members to the subcommittees as deemed  
35 necessary. (Am. 6/7/1983, 9/1/2011)

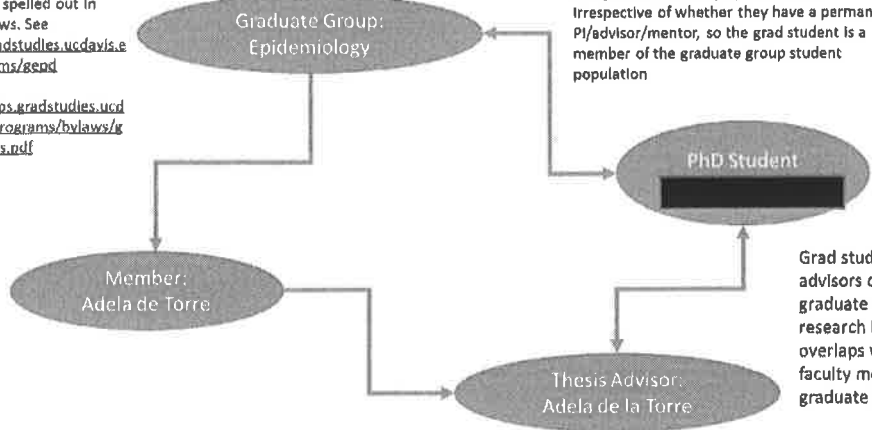
36 B. It shall be the duty of the Graduate Council with respect to the Davis campus:

- 1           1.       To grant certificates of admission to qualified applicants for graduate status; to admit  
2 qualified students to candidacy for degrees to be conferred on graduate students; to appoint  
3 committees in charge of candidates' studies, who shall certify for every candidate before  
4 recommendation for a higher degree that the candidate has fulfilled the requirements of the  
5 University pertaining to that degree. (Am. 11/25/96)
- 6           2.       To make final reports to the Executive Council concerning the conferring of graduate  
7 degrees.
- 8           3.       To advise the Chief Campus Officer concerning relations with educational and research  
9 foundations.
- 10          4.       To regulate the conduct of graduate work of the Division with a view to the promotion  
11 of research and learning. (Am. 10/22/2002)
- 12          5.       To supervise the conduct of public and other examinations for higher degrees.
- 13          6.       To make recommendations to the Representative Assembly and to the statewide  
14 Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs concerning the establishment of new graduate  
15 degrees.
- 16          7.       To report and to make recommendations to the Representative Assembly on matters  
17 pertaining to graduate work.
- 18          8.       To coordinate the procedures of the various departments and schools on the campus  
19 insofar as they relate to the conferring of degrees higher than the Bachelor's degree.
- 20          9.       To recommend and supervise all new, changed, or deleted graduate courses of  
21 instruction in the Division. In discharging this responsibility, the Graduate Council presents its  
22 recommendations to and shall maintain liaison with the Committee on Courses of Instruction.
- 23          10.       Consistent with the rights of the Faculties under the Standing Orders of the Regents  
24 (105.2.b), to determine for the Division and to make recommendations to the statewide  
25 Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs concerning the initiation of new programs by  
26 departments and graduate groups and to approve or decline to approve changes in established  
27 programs leading to existing graduate degrees, including, but not restricted to, the transfer,  
28 consolidation, disestablishment and discontinuation of existing graduate programs. (Am.  
29 11/1/2005, 9/1/2011)
- 30          11.       To set policies and standards for admission to full- and part-time graduate status. (Am.  
31 10/19/1971)
- 32          12.       To make rules governing the form of presentation and the disposition of dissertations.  
33 (Am. 12/15/1967)
- 34          13.       To recommend the award of fellowships and graduate scholarships, including honorary  
35 travel fellowships, according to the terms of the various foundations. (Am. 12/15/1967)

- 1           14.     To set policies and standards for appointment of graduate students to be Teaching  
2           Assistants, Teaching Fellows, Research Assistants, and recipients of University Fellowships. (Am.  
3           12/15/1967)
- 4           15.     To limit at its discretion the study lists of students who are employed.
- 5           16.     To set policies and standards for appointment of postdoctoral scholars or their  
6           academic equivalent and for their enrollment by the Graduate Division. (Am. 12/15/1967)
- 7           17.     To conduct regular reviews of current graduate programs for their quality and  
8           appropriateness. (Am. 11/25/1996)
- 9           18.     To establish policy on and exercise authority on academic disqualifications and/or  
10          dismissals as well as over all graduate academic transcript notations. (En. 12/15/1967)
- 11          19.     To recommend the award of the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award,  
12          according to the terms of the Academic Senate.
- 13          20.     To approve and review, or make recommendations to the Coordinating Committee on  
14          Graduate affairs where required, all post-baccalaureate certificate programs not offered solely  
15          through University Extension. (En. 9/1/2012)
- 16          C.     The annual report of the Graduate Council will be presented at the first regular meeting  
17          of the Representative Assembly in the fall term. (En. 6/4/85)
- 18          D.     At its discretion and consistent with Senate Bylaws 20 and 330(C), the Graduate Council  
19          may delegate to the Dean of Graduate Studies administrative decisions related to the academic  
20          regulations and policies of the Graduate Council. The Dean of Graduate Studies will report on  
21          and Graduate Council will review these delegated decisions annually. (En. 2/28/05 & eff.  
22          2/28/05)"
- 23
- 24          ██████████: A student (in this case, ██████████) is admitted into a graduate program (in this  
25          case, Epidemiology) where the person completes a Master's or PhD degree (██████████ has a  
26          Master's degree, he is a PhD student). Each PhD student has a thesis advisor (in this case, Adela de la  
27          Torre).

**Graduate Student Affiliations of [REDACTED]**

Members of graduate program are elected based on criteria spelled out in there bylaws. See <https://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/programs/gepd> And <https://apps.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/programs/bylaws/gepd-bylaws.pdf>



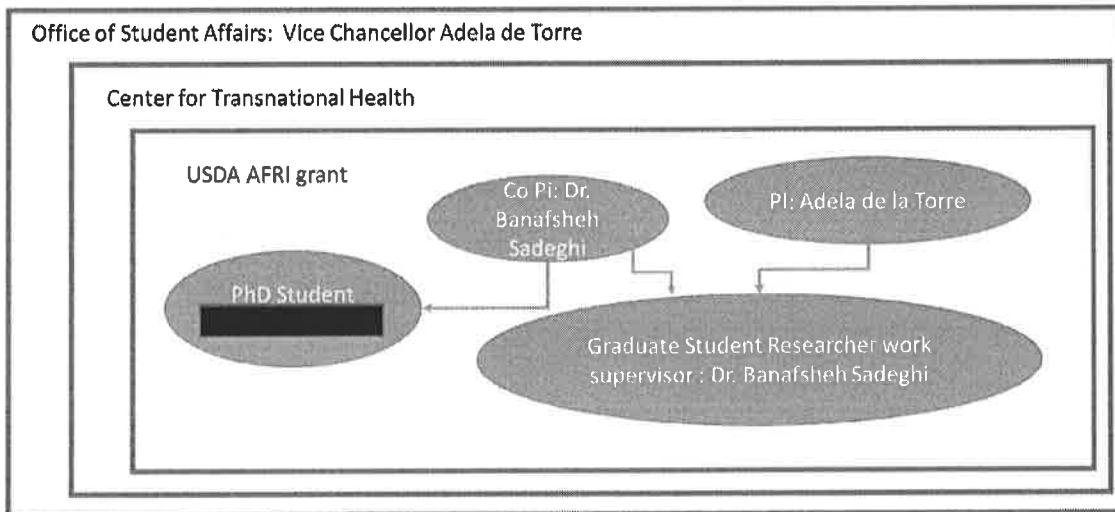
Grad students are admitted by grad groups, in many cases, including Epidemiology, Irrespective of whether they have a permanent PI/advisor/mentor, so the grad student is a member of the graduate group student population

Grad students and thesis advisors connect because graduate student's research interest overlaps with that of a faculty member in the graduate program.

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It is common for a graduate student to be employed as a graduate student researcher (GSR) and paid from a grant (in this case AFRI USDA). A PI or co-PI supports the graduate student as a GSR (in this case, Dr. Sadeghi). The work performed by the GSR is for his/her PhD research (in this case, [REDACTED] for his PhD research in the Graduate Group in Epidemiology).

**Employment of [REDACTED] s Graduate Student Assistant**



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1 **Conclusion:** The information available to date contained in the Appendices (yellow highlighted phrases)  
2 supports the statement in  
3 [http://academicssenate.ucdavis.edu/local\\_resources/docs/whats\\_new\\_2016/update\\_senatechair 5.1.20](http://academicssenate.ucdavis.edu/local_resources/docs/whats_new_2016/update_senatechair_5.1.2016.pdf)  
4 [16.pdf](http://academicssenate.ucdavis.edu/local_resources/docs/whats_new_2016/update_senatechair_5.1.2016.pdf)

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1 **Appendix 1:** 



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1 **Appendix 2: Correspondence**

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Version 1.10red

1 **Appendix 3:** Friday, April 29, 2016 2:16 PM

2 **From:** Academic Senate Chair

3 **Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2016 2:16 PM

4 **To:** Adela De La Torre (adelatorre@ucdavis.edu) <adelatorre@ucdavis.edu>

5 **Subject:** Information by 4 pm, please if at all possible

6

7 Dear Adela

8 On behalf of the Academic Senate, I request the following information:

- 9 1. The unit on campus responsible for the Transnational Health Center.  
10 2. The faculty and the graduate programs actively associated with Transnational Health Center  
11 3. Graduate students, their advisors, associated with Transnational Health Center.

12 I will appreciate receiving this information as soon as possible. There is an Executive Council meeting at 4 pm  
13 today, and if this information is available by then, it will be immensely helpful.

14

15 Thanks

16

17 Andre Knoesen

18 Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

19 Academic Senate Chair

20 530-752-4919

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Version 1.10red

1 **Appendix 4:** Friday, April 29, 2016 3:42 PM

2 **From:** lswhent@gmail.com [mailto:lswhent@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Linda Whent

3 **Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2016 3:42 PM

4 **To:** Academic Senate Chair <aschair@ucdavis.edu>

5 **Cc:** VC Student Affairs - Adela De La Torre <vcstudentaffairs@ucdavis.edu>

6 **Subject:** Re: Information by 4 pm, please if at all possible

7

8 Dear Andre,

9 Please see responses to your request in blue below:

10 Best,

11 Linda

12

13 On Fri, Apr 29, 2016 at 2:29 PM, VC Student Affairs - Adela De La Torre <[vcstudentaffairs@ucdavis.edu](mailto:vcstudentaffairs@ucdavis.edu)>  
14 wrote:

15

16 Dr Linda Whent will send this asap

17 Adela

18

19 Sent from my iPhone

20

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22 On Apr 29, 2016, at 2:17 PM, Academic Senate Chair <[aschair@ucdavis.edu](mailto:aschair@ucdavis.edu)> wrote:

23 Dear Adela

24 On behalf of the Academic Senate, I request the following information:

25 1. The unit on campus responsible for the Transnational Health Center.

26 CTH approximate start date 2007 - 12/2015 the CTH was under the Chicana/o Studies Dept.

27 1/2016 CTH moved under Student Affairs

28 2. The faculty and the graduate programs actively associated with Transnational Health Center

1 There are no specific graduate programs involved in the CTH, but individual faculty. The current grant is  
2 AFRI, USDA grant include:

3 Lucia Kaiser Emeritus Dept. of Nutrition, Richard Green Agricultural and Resource Economics, Carlos  
4 Jackson and Yvette Flores Chicana/o Studies Department, Ulfat Shaikh and Banafsheh Sadeghi School of  
5 Medicine, Bruce German Food Science and Technology.

6 3. Graduate students, their advisors, associated with Transnational Health Center.

7 Current Students

8 [REDACTED], Adela de la Torre

9 [REDACTED] advisor, Adela de la Torre

10 Other Students who completed doctoral degrees that worked for CTH AFRI

11 [REDACTED] advisor, Adela de la Torre

12 [REDACTED] Adela de la Torre

13 [REDACTED] advisor, Lucia Kaiser

14 [REDACTED] advisor Richard Green

15 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] not part of AFRI team, but working on projects at the CTH

16 [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (Masters degree) advisor Lucia Kaiser

17 [REDACTED] Carlos Jackson

18

19 [REDACTED] post-doc working with Bruce German

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22 I will appreciate receiving this information as soon as possible. There is an Executive Council meeting at 4 pm  
23 today, and if this information is available by then, it will be immensely helpful.

24

25 Thanks

26

27 Andre Knoesen

28 Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Version 1.10red

- 1 Academic Senate Chair
- 2 530-752-4919
- 3 Linda Whent Ph.D.
- 4 Cell 916-717-2453
- 5 lswhent@ucdavis.edu
- 6 Center for Transnational Health
- 7 One Shields Ave.
- 8 2102 Hart Hall, UCD
- 9 Davis, CA 95616
- 10

- 1 **Appendix 5:** [REDACTED]
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- 1 **Appendix 6:** [REDACTED]
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Version 1.10red

1 **Appendix 7:** Saturday, April 30, 2016 1:15 PM  
2 **From:** lswhent [mailto:lswhent@gmail.com]  
3 **Sent:** Saturday, April 30, 2016 1:15 PM  
4 **To:** Academic Senate Chair <aschair@ucdavis.edu>  
5 **Subject:** Re: Please confirm the following statements

6  
7 I agree with the following statement.

8 Linda Whent

9

10 Sent from my iPhone

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12 On Apr 30, 2016, at 12:56 PM, Academic Senate Chair <[aschair@ucdavis.edu](mailto:aschair@ucdavis.edu)> wrote:

13 Please confirm that I understood correctly your answers.

14 Is the following correct?

15 Professor Adela de la Torre is the chair of graduate student [REDACTED] ( [REDACTED] ) dissertation  
16 committee.

17 Dr Linda Whent Was [REDACTED]'s GSRship work supervisor from 10/20/14 through 6/30/15.

18 Dr. Banagsheh Sadeghi has been [REDACTED]'s GSRship work supervisor since 7/1/15.

19 [REDACTED] GSRship is paid from USDA AFRI grant.

20 [REDACTED] percentage GSR appointment is on the order of 50% and maybe higher during summer.

21 [REDACTED] did not receive any other compensation from Student Affairs or CTH.

22

23 Andre Knoesen

24 Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

25 Academic Senate Chair

26 530-752-4919

27

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- 1 **Appendix 8:** [REDACTED]
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**Appendix 9:**

[Redacted content]



1 **Appendix 10:** [REDACTED]

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**Appendix 11:** [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



**Student Name**

**Major Professor**

[Redacted Student Names]

[Redacted Major Professors]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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