

November 22, 2016

Cameron S. Carter

Interim Vice Chancellor for Research

RE: Institute for Transportation Studies (ITS) Five-Year ORU Review

Dear Interim Vice Chancellor Carter:

The *ad hoc* committee's review of the Institute for Transportation Studies (ITS) was forwarded to all standing committees of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate. Responses were received from the Committee on Research (COR), the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB), and Graduate Council.

CPB, while noting that the quality of the ITS program is high, "does not categorically endorse the recommendations of the review committee" because of concerns about the review's resource recommendations; CPB emphasized that recommendations must be placed in context of the broader campus budget and planning processes. Graduate Council expressed concern regarding graduate student advising. COR considers the review "thorough and positive and its recommendations reasonable," and had comments regarding planning and graduate education as noted below.

COR and CPB commented on planning and resource issues within the review. COR concurs with Dean Dillard that in planning for the future of ITS, a "10 year plan may be too long ranging; a 5 year plan would be more productive." Similarly, as part of a long-term plan, CPB recommends ITS develop a succession plan for future leadership, given that Director Sperling has held his position for 25 years. In addition, CPB is concerned that the review's recommendations regarding monetary resources "may be partly based on an incorrect understanding of members of the review committee about university budgeting." Therefore, CPB "urgently stresses that such decisions should be made as part of a consultative holistic budget process."

All committees addressed issues of graduate education related to the Transportation Technology and Policy (TTP) program. CPB is concerned that support for graduate students "may be too contingent on their being hired as teaching assistants." COR recommends "care be taken to balance graduate student committees with Senate and non-Senate faculty and not to become over-weighted with non-Senate faculty." Graduate Council, surprised that "campus rules were changed to allow more ITS scientists to serve as Ph.D. student advisors," notes that "UCOP policy, not UC Davis policy, established the qualifications required for Ph.D. student major professors." Graduate Council also notes that, in line with current policies, "ITS scientists involved in the TTP graduate program could request appointments as Lecturers without Salary in appropriate departments, so that they would be qualified to advise Ph.D. students and serve on their dissertation committees." Graduate Council's surprise indicates that ITS leadership should review policies regarding dissertation and thesis major professors and committee members, seek clarification from Graduate Council and the Office of Graduate Studies as needed, and ensure that TTP student committees are in compliance with UCOP policies.

Graduate Council's review of the Transportation Technology and Policy (TTP) graduate program is scheduled for 2017-18, at which point it will address thoroughly issues of graduate advising in the TTP program.

Thank you for the opportunity for consultation. Full committee responses are enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachael Goodhue".

Rachael Goodhue
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Professor and Chair, Agricultural and Resource Economics

Enclosed: Davis Division Committee Responses

c: Paul Dodd, Associate Vice Chancellor, Interdisciplinary Research and Strategic Initiatives
Nancy Bulger, Executive Director, Research Programs
Christine Parks, Research Program Coordinator
Perry King, Executive Analyst
Edwin M. Arevalo, Executive Director, Davis Division of the Academic Senate