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December 7, 2011

ROBERT L. POWELL, CHAIR

University of California
Academic Council
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Systemwide Review UC Rebenching Budget Committee Report

The proposal was forwarded to all Davis Division of the Academic Senate standing committees and Faculty Executive Committees with the schools and colleges for comment. Detailed responses were received from the Planning and Budget committee, Graduate Council, as well as the Faculty Executive Committee from the College of Letters and Science.

While there was some agreement with the proposal's core concept that the amount of state support per student should be equitable across UC, the division remains concerned with several aspects of the report.

The Academic Planning and Development subcommittee of the Graduate Council presents the following for consideration:

"The committee identified one aspect of the report that was particularly relevant for graduate education at UC Davis. It noted that there was no justification provided for the choice of weights for different types of students. Educating a Ph.D. student is much more expensive than educating an undergraduate and the proposed weight (2.5) does not appear to reflect fully the differences in the cost of education. Academic Master's students and professional students are weighted equally with undergraduates (1), and health science students are assigned a weight of 5. APD would like the weights to reflect differences in the cost of education."

In addition, the Faculty Executive Committee of the College of Letters and Science feels the report cannot be adequately evaluated without the inclusion of enrollment targets for each campus. If the 2020 Task Force Recommendations are to be considered in conjunction with the rebenching plan, it will be crucial to obtain and include concrete numbers for enrollment targets before the proposal can be sufficiently assessed. Finally, the committee expressed concern that if there are no new funds from the state, the rebenching proposal will merely become a plan for redistributing cuts.

The Davis Division offers the above considerations before implementing rebenching efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruno Nachtergaele".

Bruno Nachtergaele, Chair
Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Professor: Mathematics