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Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

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May 10, 2019

Lecturer Erwin Bautista, Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior, Academic Federation Representative  
Professor Frances Dolan, English, Academic Senate Representative and Task Force Chair  
Professor Kerry Enright, Education, Academic Senate Representative  
Lecturer Sarah Faye, University Writing Program, Academic Federation Representative  
Associate Dean Anita Oberbauer, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences  
Assistant Professor Trish Serviss, University Writing Program  
Assistant Professor Matthew Stratton, English, Academic Senate Representative

RE: Joint Academic Senate/Administration Task Force on Writing

Dear Colleagues:

We write to thank you for your fine work and the outstanding report you prepared addressing the topic of writing at UC Davis. Your report presents a cogent analysis and compelling case for rethinking our approach to, and infrastructural support of, writing at UC Davis. Furthermore, the report presents a clear set of well-reasoned recommendations to address the identified issues in service to students across the campus. We are gratified by your thoughtful and deeply insightful treatment of this important topic.

Your report is all the more timely given the recent completion of the campus strategic plan, [To Boldly Go](#), with its emphasis on improving the student experience and supporting student success. Indeed, the strategic plan clearly calls on us all to redouble our efforts in all areas of student support. The prescriptions you have suggested are sure to be considered carefully by both the Davis Division of the Academic Senate and campus administration. We are committed to building upon past efforts to improve writing instruction – a high priority of the campus – and, on the basis of your recommendations and the reflections they inspire, further advance our students' capacity to write.

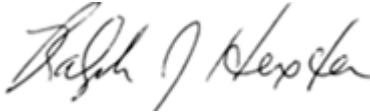
We have submitted your report, along with a separate but in many ways complimentary report on Preparatory Education prepared at the Chancellor's request, to the Academic Senate with a request for formal consultation by the appropriate Senate committees. The reports, though they have different starting points and goals, also contain significant areas of overlap, particularly with respect to Entry Level Writing Requirements (ELWR) and Workload 57 writing courses. This is an area within which both the Academic Senate and administrators have identified concerns, and indeed was one of the driving factors behind the charging of these task forces. We look forward to profiting from the Senate's consultation process in helping to guide us further down the path toward implementation.

Of course, your recommendations are likely to require additional resources and we are managing this year's campus budget process with this in mind. Certainly, we will seek to move as expeditiously as possible into the implementation mode once we receive input from the Senate's consultation process. Your report will soon be posted on the Provost's website under ['Initiatives'](#) and on the Academic Senate website under ['Special Committees and Task Forces'](#) to publicize the report's availability to the broader campus community and promote further dialogue on this important topic.

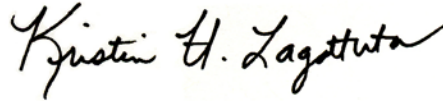
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Thank you again for your diligent efforts and special thanks to Professor Fran Dolan for her passion and leadership of these efforts.

Sincerely,



Ralph J. Hexter  
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor



Kristin Lagattuta  
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate

c: Chancellor May