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Chair Linda Bisson
Davis Division of the Academic Senate
4th Floor, Mrak Hall
Davis, CA 95616

Dear Linda,

Thank you for your letter of transmittal of May 17 and the report of the Special Committee on Athletics. I apologize for my delay in officially responding to your letter and the Special Committee's report, but wanted to do so now that we have publicly announced the selection of our new athletics director.

Clearly, Professor Kiskis and the entire Special Committee worked hard in developing its report and recommendations, based on substantial input and in-depth analysis of the report prepared by the Recruitment Advisory Committee (RAC) for the director of athletics and my own written response to that committee's report. I want you to know how much I deeply appreciate your concern and commitment to effectively addressing these issues. The Special Committee has clearly and thoughtfully recognized the complexity of intercollegiate athletics at UC Davis, and how the many pieces must fit together to achieve success and excellence in the context of a world-class public research university.

Thank you, too, for your and the Special Committee's support throughout this process. As you know, I had directed the RAC to pause its efforts to identify, recruit, and interview the best candidates for our director of athletics, pending the completion of the Special Committee's report. With your support, when the initial committee's draft report was completed, I called on the RAC to re-start its efforts to recruit our new athletics director. Now that the selection of our new athletics director, Terry Tumey, has been publicly announced, I look forward to joining him in continuing our work with you and the Senate to address the important issues identified by the Special Committee.

I want to take this opportunity to applaud the committee's constructive, comprehensive review of the future of intercollegiate athletics on our campus. I have sincerely appreciated the numerous opportunities we have had to discuss the Special Committee's report and would now like to share with you more formally some of my thoughts about the report and its recommendations.

Generally speaking, there are aspects and recommendations of the report that we can and will implement right away, some of which have already been implemented (e.g., related to admissions). The majority of the other recommendations clearly have merit, but I want to work on those with Director Tumey, once he officially arrives on campus (e.g., the idea of providing financial support by providing additional funding for Physical Education). One of the key responsibilities of Director Tumey will be to lead our campus forward as we consider the Special Committee's recommendations. And, as you and I have discussed, there are a small number of recommendations that I believe need more study, communication and deliberation with the Academic Senate. I look forward to working alongside Director Tumey as we continue those discussions with the Senate in the months to come.

As we have focused in recent months on the search for our director of athletics and our intercollegiate athletics program, it has become increasingly clear to me that I need to work more closely and more directly with our new Athletics Director on the issues that have been raised in the Special Committee's report. To that end, our new athletics director will have a reporting responsibility to me as Chancellor on such issues, and a dotted-line reporting relationship to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs particularly for issues related to the academic performance and success of our student athletes.

Looking ahead, I would like to continue our meetings with the Academic Senate leadership, along with Director Tumey, to discuss the committee's report in person and in more detail, so I can gather more information for future decisions on these matters. I want to stress that it will take time to address all of the concerns that the Special Committee and others have raised in recent months concerning our intercollegiate athletics program. Certainly, along with our new athletics director and our interim vice chancellor of Student Affairs, I will need the partnership and collaboration of the Academic Senate to effectively advance our athletics program.

There is more work to be done but this has been a most productive and positive process. I am confident the outcome will be in the best interest of the entire UC Davis community.

Again, I thank you and the Special Committee for all your work and dedication to ensuring that intercollegiate athletics now and in the future will remain aligned with UC Davis' academic mission and commitment to excellence.

Sincerely,



Linda P.B. Katehi
Chancellor

/am

c: Athletics Director Tumey