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March 19, 2015

Ms. Mandy Bachman, Graduate Program Coordinator, Languages and Literatures
Ms. Alisha Bartolomucci, Graduate Program SOA, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science
Professor Mario Biagioli, Science and Technology Studies
Professor Kyaw Tha Paw U, Land, Air and Water Resources
Ms. Rosalyn Earl, Doctoral Candidate, Education
Mr. Ethan Evans, Doctoral Candidate, Sociology
Vice Provost and Dean Jeffery C. Gibeling, Graduate Studies (Chair)
Professor Rachael Goodhue, Agricultural and Resource Economics
Professor Wolfgang Polonik, Statistics
Professor Sharon Strauss, Evolution and Ecology
Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean Heather M. Young, Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing

RE: Implementation of PIACGE Recommendations

Dear Colleagues:

I write first to express my profound gratitude for what you have accomplished together as members of the Provost's Implementation Advisory Committee on Graduate Education (PIACGE). When I charged you to review the recommendations of the Joint Administration/Academic Senate Task Force on Graduate Education at UC Davis, and suggest to me the best ways to implement them, I urged you to be bold and comprehensive—keeping in mind that graduate education is fundamental to the success of UC Davis as a major research University, and merits being at the top of mind as we consider all aspects of campus planning and operation. Indeed, you took this charge most seriously and have been both bold and comprehensive in your recommendations. Your work has created a roadmap that will guide us—administration and academic senate working together—as we take concrete steps to create tangible improvements in the ways that we recruit, support, instruct, and mentor graduate students.

My secondary purpose in writing is to provide you with a copy of a letter to campus administrators that charges them to begin various collaborative efforts to implement selected PIACGE recommendations. As indicated in the letter, we have entered a phase of significant transitions concerning graduate education, for example, how we allocate resources, and in graduate studies itself. As you well know, Vice Provost and Dean Gibeling will step down at the end of this academic year, and the campus will shortly host candidates whom our search committee has recommended as finalists in the process to appoint his successor. Nonetheless, there are a substantial number of your recommendations that need not wait for the leadership transition itself. Rather, there are a number of improvements that we can make, based on your recommendations, to prepare for the continued excellence we look for under our new vice provost and dean.

In sum, I hope that you will be pleased to note that we are moving ahead right away with much of what you have recommended. Again, many thanks for your service on the PIACGE. I trust that you

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will find your efforts rewarded by all that we accomplish as the campus starts down the road you have charted for us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph J. Hexter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ralph" being the most prominent.

Ralph J. Hexter

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

c Chancellor Katehi
 Academic Senate Chair Knoesen