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Assistant Dean Jana Katz-Bell, School of Nursing and School of Medicine
Professor Andre Knoesen, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Dean Harold Levine, School of Education (chair)
Dean Pendleton, UC Davis Extension
Professor Christopher Reynolds, Department of Music
Assistant Dean Steven Roth, Division of Social Sciences
Professor Jane-Ling Wang, Department of Statistics

RE: Task Force on Self-Supporting Degree Programs

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to invite your participation on a joint Senate-Administration Task Force to provide advice and recommendations to the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor regarding Self-Supporting Degree Programs at the University of California, Davis. As we address state budget reductions, and in light of the Commission on the Future's recommendation to expand self-supporting degree programs, there is increased interest in developing new self-supporting degree programs on our campus. New revenue flows is one of the three legs of our stool to respond to immediate budget challenges and will be ever more important in the coming years as we stabilize the university's finances in a world of much reduced state support. In order to ensure that the likely expansion of self-supporting degree programs occurs in a strategic manner that takes into consideration campuswide implications and a desire to establish new programs in an expeditious manner, there is a need to provide clarity on a number of questions and implementation challenges related to these programs.

University policy on self-supporting degree programs provides campuses with significant flexibility in determining the process and scope of campus level review, approval, and administration of such programs. This review should include both an academic review, which is the same review required for state-supported programs, as well as an administrative review. While the academic review process has been followed for all current self-supporting degree programs, there has not been a consistent administrative review of these programs. Historically, administrative approval of these programs has occurred on an ad hoc basis, with specific requests addressed to the Provost or Chancellor. In some cases it is not clear if

current self-supporting degree programs went through any administrative approval outside of their school or college. In addition, this campus does not currently have a specific policy or process that provides detailed guidance on the requirements and standards for offering and administering self-supporting degree programs or determining if a change in the type of delivery of an existing program requires additional permissions.

With this in mind, the Task Force is charged to:

- Recommend a process for the programmatic and administrative review of new self-supporting degree programs that can be accomplished in a complete and expeditious manner. The role and scope of each entity involved in the review should be clearly defined.
- Review existing self-supporting degree programs on campus to assess if they are truly self-supporting from the campuswide perspective and recommend a methodology to ensure that all campus costs of self-supporting degree programs are appropriately recovered.
- Review the existing administrative processes and structure for these programs and make recommendations about efficient methods to provide appropriate administrative infrastructure for these programs (new and existing) on our campus.
- Assess and identify issues related to maintaining the academic quality of both self-supporting and related state-supported degree programs as self-supporting degree programs expand and make recommendations on ways to ensure that quality standards are maintained.
- Assess and identify issues related to the impact of self-supporting programs on the student experience for both self-supported and state-supported students and make recommendations on ways to address these issues. This should include reviewing issues related to providing academic and non-academic services and financial support to students in self-supporting degree programs.
- Assess and identify issues related to the impact of self-supporting programs on faculty and make recommendations on ways to address these issues.
- Assess and identify issues related to the level of self-supporting fees in light of revenue generation opportunities, market factors, and their relationship to other campus fees and make recommendations to address these issues.

It is our intent to use the recommendations of the Task Force to inform a campus-based policy on self-supporting degree programs that will be issued in Fall 2011 so that it will be in effect for the development of programs that plan to start in Fall 2012. Given this timeframe and the expectations regarding increased revenue from self-supporting programs, the work of the Task Force requires an accelerated schedule. As such, we are requesting that the Task

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Force convene yet this quarter and submit a final report and recommendations by no later than October 31, 2011.

Thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity. We are confident that the Task Force's work and recommendations will provide a much needed strategic framework and clarity for self-supporting degree programs at UC Davis. The Office of Budget and Institutional Analysis will provide staff support for the Task Force and detailed background information and analysis on this topic that will be available to members prior to the initial meeting. Staff will contact you shortly to schedule the first meeting of the Task Force. You need not respond to this letter unless you are unable to serve.

Sincerely,



Ralph J. Hexter
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor



Robert L. Powell
Chair, Academic Senate