December 8, 2015

RE: Community-Engaged Scholarship at UC Davis: A Strategic Vision

Dear Colleagues:

I write to thank you for your fine work and the outstanding report you prepared: Community-Engaged Scholarship at UC Davis: A Strategic Vision. Your report presents a cogent and compelling case for formalizing our efforts to promote engaged scholarship consistent with our land-grant mission and heritage. Furthermore, the report presents a clear roadmap and recommendations for how to pursue this effort. I could scarcely have hoped for a better product. The Chancellor and I both are deeply gratified by your thoughtful treatment of this important topic.

Your report is all the more timely given our having received, last year, the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, which not only highlighted the extent to which UC Davis currently engages with our many communities, but also created a call to action to do more. Indeed, building upon and expanding our reach in the area of engaged scholarship is a high priority of the campus.

As you all know, the campus is advancing on many fronts. We are growing our research enterprise, working across disciplines to expand the frontiers of knowledge. We are also working to internationalize the campus, both through our 2020 initiative to increase enrollment of national and international students as well increasing partnerships with out partners in far corners of the globe. Most recently, we are analyzing the implications of accelerating the enrollment of more California
residents consistent with President Napolitano’s agreement with the Governor and Legislature. Your report provides yet another important opportunity to expand the reach and impact of UC Davis, in this case in the area of engaged scholarship, public service and outreach.

Such initiatives create demands for new resources and we are working diligently to ensure that our growth and advancement is supported by a solid financial foundation. Vice Chancellor and CFO Lawlor has created a financial sustainability action plan (FSAP) to identify resources to invest in such new endeavors and we evaluate all such proposals in the context of our annual budget process. I can assure you that I will carefully consider your report’s recommendations within the the 2016-2017 budget process in the expectation that we can arrive at the appropriate structure to advance the worthy goals you outline. In the meantime, I have posted the report on my website (http://provost.ucdavis.edu/initiatives-and-activities/initiatives/Community-Engaged%20Scholarship.html) and we will publicize the report’s availability to the broader campus community to promote further dialogue on this important topic.

Thank you again for your diligent efforts and special thanks to Dennis Pendleton for his passion and leadership on this topic.

Sincerely,

Ralph J. Hexter
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

c. Chancellor Katehi
   Associate Chancellor Engelbach
   Assistant Executive Vice Chancellor Mohr
   Faculty Assistant to the Chancellor and Provost Burtis
   Executive Advisor to the Provost Pendleton