February 24, 2021

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JENNIFER BASZILE, Interim Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs and Success, co-chair
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ALAN CHRISTY, Convener, College Provost, Cowell College
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JULIAN FERNALD, Director, Institutional Research, Assessment, and Policy Studies
RICHARD HUGHEY, Vice Provost and Dean, Undergraduate Education
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TRACY LARRABEE, Chair, Committee on Educational Policy
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KATHARYNE MITCHELL, Dean, Social Sciences
MATTHEW MORAN, Undergraduate Representative
TERESA MARIA LINDA SCHOLZ, Associate Vice Chancellor/Chief Diversity Officer
JOHN TAMKUN, Professor, Molecular, Cell, & Developmental Biology, HSI Leadership Team
TED WARBURTON, Interim Dean, Arts
QUENTIN WILLIAMS, Interim Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate Education
ALEXANDER WOLF, Dean, Baskin School of Engineering

Subject: Student Success Task Force

Dear Colleagues:

I write to thank you for agreeing to serve on the Student Success Task Force. The Task Force will establish priorities and provide direction to various groups on campus, including the Student Success Steering Committee and groups at the divisional and department level. Working within the frame of the UC 2030 goals, the Task Force will establish numerical goals for four and six year graduation rates for entering first year students and transfer students, and numerical goals for the closing of achievement gaps. Retention rates, course performance in gateway courses, and major migration are some of the other student success outcomes the Task Force will consider and provide direction. For all units on campus, this work must be data driven, student focused, and multi-year. To advance our students’ success, we must identify barriers to student progression whether they are structural, curricular, or cultural and we must work to reduce these barriers and provide open, accessible and equitable pathways for students to achieve their goals.

Our success as a student-centered, research university will be in large part defined by the extent to which we provide equitable higher education pathways for first-generation students, students from lower income families, or from backgrounds that have for too long been marginalized and excluded from full participation in higher education. UCSC is proud to be a minority serving public research university that is designated both as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and an Asian American, Native American and Pacific Islander Institution (ANAPISI). We know that changes to curricula, pedagogies, advising, and co-curricular opportunities that come from efforts to advance student success for marginalized and historically excluded groups also benefit students from all backgrounds. I look forward to collaborating with you on this important work.
Sincerely,

Cynthia K. Larive

Chancellor

cc: Anna Finn, Associate Chancellor
    Linda Rhoads, Assistant Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief of Staff
    Lucy Rojas, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Student Affairs & Success
    Dani Barker, Associate Director, College Student Life Operations & Staff Development
    Lezlie Ward, Executive Assistant, Student Affairs