



COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

May 4, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Esra Kurum, Chair 
Committee on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Re: *[Campus Review] (Proposal) Master of Science in Taxation (MST) - SSGPDP*

The Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (CODEI) has reviewed the Master of Science in Taxation (MST)-SSGDP proposal. The Committee appreciates the holistic admissions process and the comprehensive review of the undergraduate GPA in admission decisions. At the same time, the committee notes items of concern to be addressed related to its charge. These items are outlined as follows:

- What is the broader context of this program? In particular, how does the program respond to the tax landscape and professional needs of the Inland Empire?
- What criteria will be used to determine “quality of undergraduate institution” as part of the proposed admission process? Who will be responsible for making these determinations?
- What consideration has been given to the diversity of the Inland Empire and how that diversity may shape admission cohorts, curriculum, and instruction?
- What impact would the proposed admissions plan have on matriculation of students from underserved groups?

In addition to responses to the questions above, the Committee requests further explanation of the proposed annual fee per student. Furthermore, while pursuit of a STEM designation may allow the program to recruit a larger proportion of international students, the Committee is concerned about the potential for admissions bias based on applicants’ financial status.