

November 7, 2017

TO: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair  
UCR Academic Senate

FROM: Jan Blacher, Chair  
GSOE Executive Committee

SUBJ: Review of Draft WASC Institutional Report

The Executive Committee of the Graduate School of Education met on November 7, 2017, to review the draft WASC report submitted for campus review. We appreciate the superior efforts of Rich Cardulo, Gary Coyne and George Haggerty. The report was lucid, concise, and informative.

We offer some additions below, in the spirit of more inclusivity:

Point 18: We believe the new focus on undergraduate education in the GSOE should be mentioned, as this is a burgeoning trend now for UC's.

Point 28: There should be mention of increasing neurodiversity on campus, and the SEARCH Center in the GSOE certainly exemplifies this.

Point 33: The GSOE should be mentioned under neuroscience as well; our colleague Katherine Stavropoulos has brought neuroscience research on autism to the SEARCH Center, to our teaching offerings, and to collaboration with colleagues in psychology.

Point 38: The SEARCH Center is a good example of a university-community collaborative, offering free autism screening services, most to underrepresented and under-resourced families. In addition, Rita Kohli has established the Institute for Teachers of Color Committed to Racial Justice within the GSOE.

Point 45: It is important to add neurodiversity to the list here. (This refers to the variations in cognitive functioning that occurs among the population, and certainly among individuals at UCR, that results in learning differences.)

Point 125: The mention of President Trump is a bit off-topic and possibly not even correct here. There has been an ongoing shift in politics that threatened the funding of scientific research even before Trump's election. We strongly feel that this point detracts from the objectivity of the entire report.