Committee on Academic Personnel

April 17, 2024

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Jang-Ting Guo, Chair
Committee on Academic Personnel

Re: Proposed Academic Senate Statement on UC Quality

In its April 10, 2024 meeting, CAP reviewed and discussed the proposed Academic Senate Statement on UC Quality. The committee appreciated the efforts in summarizing some salient general characteristics of educational quality at the University of California. Below are our suggestions.

**Fundamental Basis for a UC Quality Education.** We suggest removing the word “advanced” from “…transmitting advanced knowledge, discovering new knowledge, and functioning as an active working repository of organized knowledge.” The suggestion is based on the idea that advanced knowledge is subsumed by knowledge in general. Moreover, one of the missions of the University of California is to transmit basic knowledge as well as to attain advanced knowledge and practice.

**UC Quality: Educational Offerings.** In light of “…a rapidly evolving world, including technology and new social paradigms”, we suggest more emphasis be placed on creativity, originality, visual literacy, and experiential learning in the educational paradigm, and in building core competencies and critical thinking skills.

**Build Core Competencies and Critical Thinking Skills.** Since information comes in a variety of forms, we suggest the following revision to acknowledge this complexity:

- *Train students to interpret and organize information (written, visual, spatial) critically, analytically, and effectively, empowering them with skills in the acquisition, assimilation and synthesis of knowledge that will allow nimble adaptation to the ever-changing intellectual, cultural, and technological environment.*

Since the goal is to train our students to be independent thinkers and doers, creativity to imagine and to challenge existing knowledge and conventions should also be stressed. Hence, we suggest the following revision:
• Promote intellectual curiosity and creativity and an appreciation for knowledge and experience, including knowledge for which practical applications are not immediately apparent.

Adding the word “originality” below will stress the individuality and the value of the unique voice, potential, and expression of our students:

• Nurture intellectual independence, originality, creativity, leadership, and entrepreneurship.