



October 14, 2020

Glynda Hull, Professor of Education (*co-chair*)  
Tesha Sengupta-Irving, Assistant Professor of Education (*co-chair*)  
Alejandro Luna, Assistant Dean of Administration  
Bruce Fuller, Professor, Education and Public Policy  
Frank Worrell, Professor of Education, Faculty Director of School Psychology  
Guadalupe Nickell, Senior Director, Development and External Relations  
Marcia Linn, Professor of Education, Development and Cognition, Chair of SESAME  
Rebecca Cheung, Executive Director, Leadership Programs  
Thomas Philip, Associate Professor  
Tolani Britton, Assistant Professor  
Zachary Pardos, Associate Professor  
Zeus Leonardo, Associate Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs

**Re: GSE Academic Programs & Fiscal Sustainability Task Force Charge**

Dear Colleagues,

As an academic institution committed to innovative thinking and elevating equity across society and geography, understanding and improving the complex world of Education is core to Berkeley's mission and commitment to teaching, research, and public service. We are proud that the Graduate School of Education's (GSE) programs continue to rank in the highest percentile nationally and globally. Equipped with stellar faculty, the conditions of our time present the GSE with a unique opportunity to critically reimagine the functions of education and schooling, together.

In support of GSE's continued excellence, we invite you to serve on a task force whose charge is to make specific recommendations about how to best secure the strongest future for GSE. We make no assumptions about what the answers may be, and so have agreed to take a comprehensive look at what we do and how we do it. We do not assume that the continuation of existing practices is necessarily a bad thing, nor do we assume that innovative approaches are suspect. The issues must be approached in a spirit of open inquiry. Through a *collective* and *collaborative* approach, we need to understand what our priorities are now and what they should be for the future. This is an opportunity to design a sustainable future together; and, in doing so, demonstrate new modes of progressive leadership and innovation in Education.

We ask that you explore the following areas of inquiry and develop recommendations for each:

- A vision for the future sustainability of the GSE in terms of self-supporting, revenue-generating, and/or major endowed academic programs

- Optimal student admissions numbers and programmatic growth that align with long-term sustainability
- An increase in GSE course sizes and developing dynamic, new courses with broader appeal
- Ways to obtain significant senate faculty coverage for teaching service courses across the GSE's main academic programs, including the MA/PhD, EdD, BE3, PLI, and undergraduate minor programs
- An increase in faculty research productivity and grants
- The viability of an education undergraduate major
- A 4+1 pathway(s) from undergraduate to GSE MA programs, including teacher education [BE3] and academic masters programs

If there are areas that are not described in the above list that emerge in your conversations as critical to the successful future of GSE, we encourage you to pursue those areas as well. We request that you report your recommendations to us **by April 30, 2021**, as they will be presented to the incoming GSE Dean.

The work of the task force will be supported by the Academic Finance Reform Initiative project team including Andy Kraus, Katrina Koski, Chris Stanich, and Andrea Lambert, as well as by GSE's Alejandro Luna, Assistant Dean for Administration, and Allyson Cesario, Executive Assistant to the Dean. This task force will also receive support on an as-needed basis from the Office of Planning and Analysis given their experience with campus data, particularly in relation to budgeting and academic finance reform planning.

Thank you in advance for your time, effort, and contributions to this important work. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the GSE has a prominent future.

Sincerely,



A. Paul Alivisatos  
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost



Prudence Carter  
Dean of the Graduate School of Education

cc: Andrea Lambert, Chief of Staff to the Provost

Benjamin E. Hermalin, Vice Provost for the Faculty  
Chris Stanich, Associate Vice Chancellor, Financial Planning and Analysis  
Katrina Koski, Academic Finance Reform Initiative Project Manager  
Andy Kraus, Academic Finance Reform Initiative Project Manager  
Allyson Cesario, Executive Assistant