December 9, 2019

*Updated membership*

Cathy Koshland, Vice Chancellor, Undergraduate Education (Co-chair)
Oliver O’Reilly, Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate (Co-chair)
Patrick Allen, Director of Student Services, Economics
Anne Baranger, Director of Undergraduate Chemistry; COCI representative
Shawna Dark, Chief Academic Technology Officer, Exe. Director of Research, Teaching, & Learning
Elizabeth Dupuis, Associate University Librarian for Educational Initiatives & User Services
Ron Fearing, Professor, Electrical Engineering/EECS
Armando Fox, Professor, EECS; Faculty Advisor for Digital Learning Strategy in VCUE
Susan Hagtstrom, Manager, Advising Strategy and Training, Division of Undergraduate Education
Suzanne Harrison, Director, Digital Learning Services
Leslea Hlusko, Professor, Integrative Biology; Graduate Council representative
Glynda Hull, Professor, Graduate School of Education; Committee on Teaching representative
Terry Johnson, Associate Teaching Professor, Bioengineering
Jonah Levy, Associate Professor of Political Science; Undergraduate Council representative
Ryan Liu, Graduate Student in Master of Information Management and Systems program
Adam Orford, President, Graduate Assembly; Ph.D student in the Energy & Resources Group
Andy Peterson, Senior Consultant for Learning Design & Technology for the School of Social Welfare and the Goldman School of Public Policy
Scott Saul, Professor, English
Media Sina, Undergraduate student in Chemical Engineering; ASUC Senator
Aditya Varma, Undergraduate student in Letters & Science; ASUC representative

*Re: Task Force on Instructional Resilience*

Dear colleagues:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the joint Administration-ASUC-GA-Senate Task Force on Instructional Resilience. The formation of this task force was announced in a message to the campus on Wednesday November 6 and is a priority initiative for this academic year. The task force is charged with helping to make the instructional mission of the campus more robust to large-scale disruptions such as those caused recently by power outages and poor air quality.

I have asked Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education, Cathy Koshland, and the Chair of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate, Oliver O’Reilly to serve as the co-chairs for the task force. Membership of the task force includes representation from the Graduate Assembly, the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC), several committees of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate, and other key campus representatives.

The charges to the task force are as follows:
1. define what instructional resilience is, including use cases, across the disciplines;
2. develop recommendations for best practices for instructional resilience and continuity;
3. create an achievable technical and financial roadmap for how to implement the recommendations;
4. develop an outreach and incentives plan that would facilitate wide-spread adoption of instructional resilience best practices; and
5. ensure we are prepared with a plan for approaching instructional resilience during any power outages or fires that may occur in Fall 2020.

One crucial aspect of each charge is the importance of developing a more robust instructional model that is inclusive and accessible. We will be taking advantage of this opportunity to address some issues that instructors have faced with Disabled Students’ Program (DSP) accommodations and to explore implementation of the recommendations of a Task Force on Course Material Accessibility and Affordability. The methods that will be proposed, and in some cases, implemented, will be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and compatible with DSP accommodations.

I ask that you broadly engage stakeholders -- students, faculty, and staff from across campus -- and deliver your preliminary recommendations to me by Friday, March 20, 2020 and a final report by May 15, 2020.

Staff support for the task force will be provided by Kristine Lee Wilby in the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost and Leslie Harlson in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education.

Thank you in advance for your service to the campus and your willingness to participate in this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A. Paul Alivisatos
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

cc: Andrea Lambert, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost
Leslie Harlson, Project Policy Analyst, Office of the Vice Chancellor, Undergraduate Education
Kristine Lee Wilby, Project Policy Analyst, Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost