



August 30, 2023
updated membership

Oliver M. O'Reilly, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education* (co-chair)
Stephen Sutton, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs* (co-chair)
Dania Matos, Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion* (co-chair)
John Arnold, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Affairs, College of Chemistry
Susan Cass, Manager, Central Evaluation Unit
Micki Antovich, Director of New Student Services
Donna Vivar, Manager of Advising Strategies and Training
Jessica Bauer, Director of Summer Sessions
Lorena Valdez, Director, Transfer Student Programs
Azadeh Zohrabi, Director of Berkeley Underground Scholars Program
Tomie Lenear, Program Director, Student Parent Center
Tom McEnaney, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Spanish & Portuguese *
Lynn Huntsinger, Professor of Rangeland Ecology and Management *
Oscar Dubon, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering *
Shachar Kariv, Professor of Economics *
Terrence Hendershott, Professor of Business *
Hayden Taylor, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering *
Geoffrey Lee, Associate Professor of Philosophy *
Omar Ramirez, Director of Academic Advising, College of Environmental Design
** denotes Executive Committee member*

Re: Joint Senate-Administration Task Force on the Transfer Student Experience

Dear Colleagues,

At the recommendation of the co-chairs (Dania, Oliver and Steve), we have postponed this task-force to begin its work in earnest until the Fall 2023 semester. Thus, I once again write to invite you to serve on a joint Senate-Administration task force on the transfer-student experience. In each year of this three-year task force, working groups will be created to make improvements on specific areas of the transfer experience. The task force will meet on a monthly basis this academic year, starting in September 2023 and deliver its findings, recommendations, and the status of its work done to the Chancellor and me by April 4, 2024. The core question that this group will address is:

What meaningful improvements to the transfer-student transition and experience can we recommend this academic year that will enhance transfer students' sense of belonging, increase their early understanding of their academic pathways, and connect them with resources that support their success at UC Berkeley?

In this first year of inquiry, the task force will discuss potential areas of investigation recommended by the Transfer Student Success Group (TSSG), a Community of Practice here at UC Berkeley. Working groups will be formed in the first task-force meeting. Please come to the first meeting with a sense of the topic areas and draft questions on which you would like to work on this year.

Potential areas of investigation include:

- **Admissions/Yield/Transfer Student Transition**
 - How can yield events be better tailored to the transfer-student population?
 - What changes are made to GBA and GBO each year so they better serve the transfer student population?
 - What changes to services and support structures could improve the transition experience for transfer students?
 - How can we optimize the processing of transfer credit and expedite the completion of Initial Transfer Credit Review such that transfer students can be informed as to their degree progress in their first semester?

- **Advising and Academic Experience**
 - Do incoming transfer students have adequate access to academic advisors before/during/after acceptance to Berkeley, especially during initial enrollment?
 - What other pre-enrollment support would improve the academic experience and success of incoming transfer students?
 - Do transfer students have access to the courses they need in their first semester enrollment?
 - What changes to the Major Maps Initiative are needed to ensure that it is an effective resource for transfer students?

- **Sense of belonging efforts** (activities, programs, etc. that assist transfer students in creating a sense of belonging at Cal)
 - What activities, facilities, programs, etc., currently assist transfer students in creating a sense of belonging at UC Berkeley?
 - How can existing programs, facilities, and activities be improved upon or expanded?
 - Can students be successfully engaged in finding creative solutions to promote the sense of belonging on campus?

The Executive Committee will be co-chaired by Vice Provost Oliver O'Reilly, Vice Chancellor Dania Matos and Vice Chancellor Steve Sutton. Each of the working groups will have administrative and Senate co-chairs. The task force will be staffed by Lauren Belin from the Division of Student Affairs and Jasmine Kamariotis, Transfer Student Center Counselor. I kindly ask that the task force provide the Chancellor and me with your findings and recommendations by **April 4, 2023**.

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this important effort.

Sincerely,



Benjamin E. Hermalin
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

cc: Jocelyn Banaria, Executive Director, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
Leslie Harlson, Interim AVP and Chief of Staff to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
Bahar Navab, AVC and Chief of Staff to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Andrea Lambert-Tan, AEVC and Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost