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Professor Ling, Chair,
University Committee on Committees

Dear Pam,

Nominations for a UC Systemwide Senate Task Force on the Climate Crisis

I write to UCoC to request nominations for members for a UC Senate Task Force on the Climate Crisis.

Following my [December 2019 letter](#) to President Napolitano regarding Academic Council's adoption of three Climate Change principles, and [her response](#), an Interim Working Group was set up to see how Senate could best move forward with the three principles adopted by Academic Council. The principles are:

- i. To support UC to move beyond carbon neutrality to decarbonization (i.e. emissions reduction).
- ii. To co-ordinate campus initiatives and faculty engagement in developing new approaches to the climate crisis; such as the formation of a Systemwide workgroup.
- iii. To foster the mobilization of multi-, cross-, and trans-disciplinary teams to communicate and explain the urgency of decarbonization

The IWG recommends that a Senate Climate Crisis Task Force (CCTF) be created to solicit, develop, and encourage implementation of policies and practices for all 10 campuses within the UC system¹.

The first task for the CCTF will be to examine how best to encourage/urge Divisional Chairs of the UC Senate to create their own Working Groups on the Climate Crisis at each campus.

Simultaneously, the CCTF will also develop strategies to urge the campuses and the UC to:

1. Reduce emissions by 45% by 2030, from 2010 levels (as recommended in the 2018 IPCC Report²) by implementing decarbonization activities at each of the 10 campuses, with co-ordination by UCOP.
2. Ensure mechanisms of transparency around investments at the UC, particularly with regard to fossil fuel investments.
3. Foster more teaching across the 10 campuses on all aspects of planetary climate crises and climate justice, and also support every campus to develop a climate-crisis-related General Education requirement.

¹ e.g. UCSD Task Force on Climate Crisis Report: <http://senate.ucsd.edu/media/414872/climate-crisis-task-force-report-02-03-20-final.pdf>

² https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf

4. Buttress existing research and associated technical solutions in climate science with other research, including at the National Laboratories, aimed at offering solutions that integrate technological developments with social, political, economic, and psychological approaches.
5. Realize the Service Mission of the UC by, for example, conducting climate crisis outreach to K-12 schools and local city councils, fostering the development of resilience, and working with climate refugees.

The CCTF will also:

- Consider ways to explicitly address state and national perceptions about the climate crisis.
- Identify appropriate mechanisms for the UC system to interact and collaborate with external stakeholders on solutions to the climate crisis, at global, national, state and local levels.
- Seek input from organisations that include ANR and UCDC, amongst others.

Membership of the CCTF will comprise at least 12 members, one from each campus, plus a Chair and Vice Chair. CCTF members will be nominated by UCoC³ to the Chair of the Academic Council who shall ensure diversity of membership with respect to

- a) potential members' relationships with respect race/ethnicity, gender, and age;
- b) the representation of diverse fields, including social science, humanities, medicine, the physical and life sciences, and engineering; and
- c) proven commitment to climate crisis work.

I also ask that UCoC offer nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Task Force.

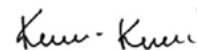
It is expected that the CCTF will produce an Interim Report 12 months after its first meeting. This will include information on the progress made towards developing Senate Climate Crisis working groups on those campuses which do not have one, as well as the progress made towards decarbonization by each campus. If the CCTF has been able to establish sub-groups to look at other aspects of the Charge, e.g. development of courses, that could also be included in this Interim Report.

The UC Systemwide Senate aims to harness the expertise of UC faculty so that we may all work to seek solutions to the central challenge of our time: to protect our planet. UC faculty are, and will continue to be, key contributors to this critical endeavor. This Senate Task Force will demonstrate how a large institution such as the UC can develop and implement significant local solutions to mitigate the climate crisis.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have questions.

I want to take this opportunity to say that I very much appreciate the critical work that UCoC does to ensure that Senate works with as wide a group of faculty in the UC.

Warmest wishes,



Kum-Kum Bhavnani
Chair, Academic Council

³ I include nominations from the CC Interim Working Group with this letter