

Daniel Neuman  
Executive Vice Chancellor

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January 30, 2003

- Professor Kym Faull, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences
- Professor Peggy Fong, Organismic Biology Ecology & Evolution
- Professor Robert Frank, Neurobiology and History
- Professor Raymond Knapp, Musicology
- Associate Dean Adrienne Lavine, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- Associate Vice Chancellor Paula N. Lutomirski
- Professor Robert Gurval, Classics
- Professor Richard Kaner, Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Associate Dean Lorraine Sakata
- Vice Provost Judith L. Smith
- Professor Thomas Wortham, English
- Dean Scott Waugh

Dear Colleagues:

In his letter of September 9, 2002 (enclosed), President Richard Atkinson requested that each campus "appoint, in consultation with the Academic Senate, a campuswide Taskforce on Undergraduate Education in a Research Context . . . to define how your campus will improve undergraduate education and increase faculty involvement in undergraduate instruction."

We believe that this request provides a valuable opportunity for us to review and consider some important dimensions of UCLA's approach to undergraduate education. Consequently, we are very pleased that you have agreed to serve on a Joint Administrative/Senate Taskforce on the Enhancement of Undergraduate Education that will be chaired by Professor Raymond Knapp, Chair of the Undergraduate Council, and Professor Judith L. Smith, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.

We ask you to address the following questions:

1. What is the role of research and other creative activities in undergraduate education at UCLA and what should it be? As part of your response, please describe opportunities that students currently have to be mentored by faculty at both the entry and at more advanced and independent levels. We know that our existing programs provide undergraduate students training and encourage enthusiasm for research work. Because these programs were a particular interest of President Atkinson, please also consider how we might build on our efforts.
2. What opportunities currently exist for undergraduate students to engage in small seminars (15-20 students) that focus on research practice or issues? How might we expand these opportunities for lower division and upper division students?

3. What are the current roles of ladder and non-ladder faculty in undergraduate teaching at UCLA and are these appropriate for a research university? How does this differentiation affect undergraduate education and our ability to integrate research and teaching? Does it make optimal use of UCLA's research faculty?
4. What UCLA activities promote a sense of academic community and bring undergraduate students and faculty members together outside the classroom? How might we enhance and expand such opportunities at UCLA?

We are grateful that Directors Lucy Blackmar and Caroline West have agreed to provide support to the Taskforce. In order to be able to respond as requested to the Office of the President, we would like to receive your report by April 15, 2003. To meet this short turnaround time, the first meeting will be scheduled soon.

Please accept our appreciation for your service on this important group.

Sincerely,

Duncan Lindsey  
Chair, Academic Senate

Daniel Neuman  
Executive Vice Chancellor

Enclosure

cc: Director Lucy Blackmar  
Director Caroline West