May 6, 2016

COUNCIL OF DEANS AND VICE CHANCELLORS

Re: Update of Fall 2016 New Undergraduate Enrollment Estimates

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to provide an update of our undergraduate enrollment projections for fall 2016. The deadline for freshmen to submit their statements of intent to register (SIR) was May 1. Based on these data, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions has forecast how actual enrollments may compare to planned enrollments.

As you know, we have been planning for substantial enrollment growth in the 2016-17 academic year. All of the UC campuses are working toward a combined, systemwide goal of increasing the number of undergraduate California resident students by 5,000. UC Davis already enrolls more California residents than any other campus, and we are committed to meeting the new target established for us by the Office of the President in the context of this systemwide goal. In addition to our share of the systemwide goal for California resident students, we have continued to increase the number of national and international students as we advance our 2020 Initiative.

Our fall 2016 enrollment target for new California residents is 7,735 (4,635 freshmen and 3,100 transfer). This is an increase of almost 1,000 students from fall 2015. Based on freshmen SIR data, Undergraduate Admissions is confident that we will reach our target. We are in the process of extending offers of admission to freshmen on the waitlist. Use of the waitlist has been part of our strategy since the enrollment targets were initially set. In the coming weeks, there may be multiple draws from the freshmen waitlist to ensure that we get as close to the freshman target for California residents as we can without exceeding it. The deadline for transfer students to submit their SIR is June 1, and current data suggest that we are on track to meet the transfer target.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for achieving our planned numbers of incoming national and international students. This fall, our plan is to enroll 1,750 (1,250 freshmen and 500 transfer) new national and international students. This is an increase of about 100 students from fall 2015. Currently, Admissions projects that we will enroll approximately 1,400 national and international students—a shortfall of about 350 students. This projected shortfall already takes into account that fact that we will make offers of admission to national and international students on the waitlist. There is a risk...
that the shortfall will be larger—so anti-melt efforts will be more important than ever this year. We believe that primary contributing factors to this shortfall are the mandated 8% increase in nonresident supplemental tuition and strict limitations on institutional financial aid for national and international students. We expect that this enrollment shortfall will be distributed in roughly equal proportion among the colleges and divisions.

The lower than expected enrollment of national and international students will adversely impact our financial projections for the coming fiscal year. Budget and Institutional Analysis (BIA) is in the process of preparing revised projections for units that receive a share of undergraduate tuition and will work with us in developing campuswide options for dealing with this change. It is worth noting that lower than expected enrollments will provide some relief from demand for classroom space this fall and from demand for some instructional resources (such as lecturers and TAs) next academic year. However, instructional space remains a concern, and Undergraduate Education, BIA and Student Affairs are collaborating with the associate deans and other campus stakeholders on solutions to this problem.

I will continue to keep you informed as more information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Kenneth C. Burtis
Acting Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

c: Acting Chancellor Hexter