With this email, I want to express my strong support for the college undergraduate diversity requirement. I am proud to be a member of the faculty at UCLA, not just because of our academic and research achievements, but because UCLA is comprised of an extremely vibrant, exciting, and diverse community of scholars, scientists, and students. I strongly feel that, as a faculty, we need to embrace, promote and celebrate this diversity, acknowledging that our diversity is a large part of who we are and why we are successful. The proposed diversity requirement is one way that we can accomplish this objective, by doing what we do best, educating our students in key topics that will enhance their success in their future careers.

On a practical side, as long time Vice Chair for undergraduate education and head of the curriculum committee of my department (EEB), I have investigated both the student’s views on this requirement and evaluated any impact on their degree progress. Overall, students are enthusiastic about this requirement, reflecting findings of the recent Campus Climate Survey. Further, our undergraduate advisors, who design personalize schedules for each and every one of our almost 1800 undergraduates, have reassured us that this requirement will have no impact on time to degree for our majors.

Thus, because the cost is minimal and the benefit so large, I strongly advocate we implement the college undergraduate diversity requirement.

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