Pro Statement

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Vote YES because having faculty from outside the College dictate what College of Arts and Science faculty should teach our students is anathema to the sacrosanct principle of curricular autonomy of UCLA academic units. UCLA academic units should decide the curriculum for their students without outside interference. I vote yes as a faculty member in a professional school to endorse the vote of my colleagues in the College and to affirm their right to self-determination.

Vote YES because overturning the positive votes of the students, Faculty Executive Committee, College Faculty, Legislative Assembly and Undergraduate Council will undermine the foundations of shared governance at UCLA, creating a governance crisis.

Vote YES because UCLA undergraduate students want a diversity requirement. 63% of UCLA undergraduates have voted in favor of a diversity course requirement, showing strong support for this initiative.

Vote YES because overturning the College undergraduate diversity requirement, which was approved through an open, democratic process will cause irreparable damage to UCLA’s reputation, impacting our place of leadership in the Los Angeles community, California, nationally and potentially internationally. UCLA should not be seen as the anti-diversity UC campus.

Vote YES because Extensive peer-reviewed research shows diversity content courses can reduce prejudice and increase civic behaviors. Adding an undergraduate diversity course requirement is a critically important step in helping UCLA improve campus climate, particularly at the undergraduate level.

Vote YES because teaching about diversity in higher education is mainstream. The majority of U.S. 4-year colleges and universities have a diversity course requirements as part of their undergraduate curriculum. National surveys show 71% of U.S. residents believe diversity education on college and university campuses is important.

Vote YES because UCLA desperately needs to improve campus climate. Climate surveys show 24% of faculty, staff, and students have experienced exclusionary, offensive or hostile conduct based on race, gender or sexual orientation. We must act to change this statistic.

Vote YES because Executive Vice Chancellor Scott Waugh as stated that adopting the college undergraduate diversity course requirement will have no impact on the funding or any other resources that support existing general educational requirements across the Arts, Humanities or Sciences.

Vote YES because the College of Letters and Science undergraduate curriculum needs to join the 21st century. All UC campuses except Merced and UCLA, have diversity requirements in their undergraduate curriculum. The School of Arts and Architecture has already adopted a diversity requirement at UCLA.

Vote YES because Corey Hollis, the Director of Academic Advising indicates that the college diversity course requirement will have absolutely no impact on time to degree.

Vote YES because Bob Cox, Director of Enrollment Planning and Academic Performance Analysis indicates that there will be more than sufficient seat capacity to launch the requirement beginning with the 2015 freshman class.
Vote **YES** because Jackie Robinson, Arthur Ashe, Ralph Bunche, Antonio Villaraigosa, Anna Lee-Fisher, Sheila Kuehl, Tom Bradley, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, have created an enviable legacy of diversity leadership at UCLA. We should embrace, celebrate, and continue their legacy.