Vote Yes on the Diversity Requirement

Dear Colleagues,

Vote **YES** on the College Diversity Requirement for these reasons:

**Diversity is a Core Competency for our Undergraduates** UCLA undergraduates need to have strong skills in diversity to thrive and lead in a world that is global, complex and interconnected.

**Diversity in the Curriculum Develops Cognitive Skills** A large, peer-reviewed literature demonstrates that diversity in the curriculum improves students’ cognitive abilities and reduces prejudice with respect to difference.

**The Diversity Requirement Proposal has been Developed Thoughtfully and Vetted by the Campus Community** Students and faculty have contributed to the development of the proposal since April 2014. The proposal has received unanimous support from the Undergraduate Council, the College FEC, and majority support from the College of Letters and Science Faculty, as well as overwhelming support from the Legislative Assembly in two separate votes.

**The Diversity Requirement is Feasible** UCLA is well-poised to meet the student demand for the diversity requirement. The proposal has been reviewed by the Office of Enrollment and Planning and by the Director of Academic Advising. These offices agree that there is more than sufficient course capacity to meet student demand without increasing time to degree.

**UCLA Students Want a Diversity Requirement** The diversity requirement has been endorsed by USAC, the Daily Bruin, and supported by student body polls.

**The Diversity Requirement Upholds UCLA’s Values** A diversity requirement is well-aligned with UCLA’s Principles of Community and demonstrates institutional commitment to and validation of the values of diversity and inclusiveness.

**The Administration Supports the Diversity Requirement** The Chancellor’s Office has committed funds for new course development and training. Funding of the diversity requirement **will not** impact GE or any other undergraduate curriculum funding streams.

The College Diversity Requirement is a key element towards fostering educational excellence in our students, improving campus climate and supporting UCLA as a flagship undergraduate educational institution in the 21st century. Please join me in voting YES for the College Diversity Requirement.

Michael Alfaro
Associate Professor
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Institute for Society and Genetics
Co-Chair, College Diversity Initiative