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I am writing in support of the Diversity Requirement.

In *The Rhetoric of Reaction* the eminent economist Albert O. Hirschman, outlined three main arguments that opponents of reform have been mobilizing since at least 1789: jeopardy, perversity, and futility. These closely map onto the arguments that opponents of the diversity measure have been making since the start. **Jeopardy:** They argue that the diversity requirement will endanger UCLA by steeping it in politically correct ideology and will further harm students’ academic freedom. **Perversity:** The diversity requirement will have the opposite effect which will be to harden our currently tolerant campus against diversity and spur inter-group resentment. And **Futility:** UCLA’s bureaucracy and faculty are incapable of delivering this curriculum.

In contrast the arguments (on this website and during the earlier votes) of the pro-diversity requirement side are rich and nuanced. They cite the vast empirical and theoretical literature on the benefits of diversity; campus climate survey data, corroborated by recurring episodes of shocking discrimination on campus, showing that our happy campus conceals a series of problems; arguments about the necessity of diversity as a core competence in 21st century citizenry as well as future workforce and corporate leadership; the important analytic and interdisciplinary research necessary to understand dimensions of diversity and effective social relations; personal testimonials of difficult experiences that are often invisible to a majority and elite audience; and the history of responsibility that UCLA must uphold with respect to its peer institutions and its global reputation.

Those who are not so caught up in the reactionary arguments against diversity requirement might worry about one more requirement for undergrads. **THIS** is a requirement, as the Pro side has clearly shown, that can benefit students, the campus, and the society we’re sending them into. Yes, we need to worry about how many requirements students have overall, but that is not an argument against the quality of this requirement.

Further, this requirement will be most effective as north and south campus faculty work together to offer classes that integrate diversity across the curriculum. Offerings from the Institute for Society and Genetics target these questions in ways that undergraduates can benefit greatly from. It is clear that at least the other departments in Life Sciences, the Institute for the Environment, and likely others can develop a curriculum that will benefit students across the campus.

Please join me in voting YES and then supporting the Diversity Requirement.