Dear Professor Garrett,

I would like to express my strongest support for the College undergraduate diversity requirement under consideration by the UCLA Academic Senate. Although it would be pleasant to believe that we live in a world where diversity is no longer an issue—at least not on university campuses populated, presumably, by enlightened professors and students—anyone who reads the news will realize that we still have a long way to go before we can ignore diversity education. If anyone needed another reminder of this fact, surely the recent incident at Oklahoma University should suffice. There, undergraduate university students belonging to a fraternity (SAE) were videotaped enthusiastically engaged in racist chanting. One would have to be extremely naive, or simply willfully ignorant, to suppose that this sort of thing does not take place on a daily basis at some university campus somewhere in the US. In the face of such persistent prejudice, indeed hatred, on the part of a significant number of university students, to require our undergraduate students to take a course in diversity appreciation seems extremely reasonable. Such modest measures, one hopes, will hasten the day when underrepresented groups at UCLA are no longer confronted with prejudiced actions such as those exhibited by the SAE fraternity members at Oklahoma University.

Thank you for your consideration of my statement.

Sincerely,

David L. Glanzman, Professor
Departments of Integrative Biology and Physiology, UCLA College and Neurobiology, David Geffen School of Medicine