March 9, 2015

Academic Senate Faculty

Re: Proposed Diversity Requirement in the College of Letters and Science

Dear Colleagues:

This letter conveys my full support for the proposed requirement initially approved by the College of Letters and Science as well as the Legislative Assembly. The requirement mandates that undergraduate students within College complete at least one course fulfilling a diversity requirement in order to graduate.

I am a member of the faculty of the Department of Community Health Sciences in the Fielding School of Public Health. Despite having no current or prior teaching responsibilities in the College, I, as with many others, find myself in the position of voting on the curricular decisions of the College. I am very reluctant to second guess the decisions that faculty and others in the College made about the nature of its curricula and the courses needed to prepare its undergraduate students to become effective leaders in the global community they will encounter following graduation. Failure to ensure a unit’s curricular autonomy may set a precedent that makes it difficult for the University to ensure that there are spaces on campus in which the pursuit of various forms of knowledge is possible.

In conclusion, I encourage the ratification of the diversity requirement as proposed.

Sincerely,

Chandra L. Ford, PhD, MPH, MLIS
Associate Professor