

Date: May 15, 2019

To: Mark Stohs, Chair
Academic Senate

From: Rob Watson
Chair – Grad Ed Committee

Subject: CSU System-Wide Strategic Plan for Research

The CSU Chancellor's Office's recently published document titled "Envisioning the Future of Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity in the CSU" has raised the alarm among many faculty members who feel that the status of graduate education within the CSU may be at risk.

By failing to include a single statement that explicitly identifies graduate students and their importance in faculty research, scholarship and creative activities, this document implicitly denigrates graduate programs of study. The research contributions of our graduate students are often substantial and integral to faculty success in both obtaining extramural grant funding and in advancing knowledge in our fields through publications and presentations. As well, advanced and maturing creative activities by graduate students often undergirds faculty-led artistic creation, performance, and production and lifts undergraduate student achievement.

The CSU can better herald how our graduate programs also prepare students for

- jobs requiring master's degrees to meet the demands of industry, state agencies and communities in California
- entrance into doctoral programs
- higher levels of artistic creation, performance, and production
- and inter-disciplinary scholarship, research and creative activities.

Following the grossly inadequate inclusion of graduate education in our own campus' strategic plan, the Graduate Education Committee feels compelled to voice the concerns of CSUF faculty to the Academic Senate.

Therefore, we entreat the CSUF Academic Senate to advocate for

- graduate education to be visibly represented in the CSU's strategic plan for research through unambiguous language that recognizes the importance of graduate education in faculty research, scholarship and creative activities;
- a revision of the strategic plan to include acknowledgement by the CSU leadership of both the importance of our graduate students to faculty research and the role of faculty research, scholarship and creative activities in graduate student success.

by drafting a resolution to the CSU Senate and/or the Chancellor's Office to defend graduate education within the California State University system.