



April 16, 2012

Chancellor Marye Anne Fox
University of California, San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive, MC 0005
La Jolla, California 92093-0005

Dear Chancellor Fox:

For the past twenty-five years, thousands of students in San Diego and Imperial Counties have transferred from their local community college to UCSD by taking advantage of the Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) Program. These students have benefited greatly from TAG, which provides a reliable transfer pathway and ensures that our local, diverse, and qualified student population has access to the academic excellence of UCSD's programs. The decision to eliminate TAG constitutes a dramatic shift in educational policy, one that communicates the message to our students and communities that UCSD is closing its door to San Diego and Imperial County community college students.

As current Board of Trustees members of the various San Diego and Imperial County community colleges, we, too, face unprecedented and profound budget reductions occurring at a time of record student demand. Eliminating a program that benefits our local students in order to "address capacity and budget issues" potentially disenfranchises our diverse community college, transfer-seeking populations.

On behalf of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges Association (SDICCCA) Board Alliance, we write to share our dismay and disappointment in the University's decision to eliminate TAG. We respectfully ask that you review and reconsider this decision. We also wish to offer our support to the faculty whom we understand are seeking an exemption for Region X colleges. If this decision is, however, final and absolute, we wish to be part of the discussion as to how we move forward with facilitating successful transfer of our local community college students in a post-TAG environment.

Last week, you received an invitation from the SDICCCA President Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, Superintendent/President of the MiraCosta Community College District and SDICCCA Vice President Constance M. Carroll, Chancellor of the San Diego Community College District. We hope that you, and any other UCSD officials you deem appropriate, will visit with your SDICCCA colleagues to discuss UCSD's TAG decision

and, more importantly, begin dialogue on ways to sustain and build upon the special relationship UCSD has forged with SDICCCA colleges.

As a consortium of local community colleges established over forty years ago, we have enjoyed a long, productive, and functional relationship with UCSD, one we wish to continue.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we look forward to your visit and conversation.

Sincerely,



William C. Fischer, President, SDICCCA Board Alliance
Past-President, MiraCosta Community College District Board of Trustees



Rich Grosch, Vice President, SDICCCA Board Alliance
President, San Diego Community College District Board of Trustees

On behalf of:

Bill Garrett, President, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District Board of Trustees
Jerry Hart, Past-President, Imperial County Community College District Board of Trustees
Norma Hernandez, President, Southwestern Community College District Board of Trustees
Darrell McMullen, President, Palomar Community College District Board of Trustees

cc: Mae Brown, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Director of Admissions