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June 22, 2005

The Honorable Carol Liu
Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 4112
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 724 (Scott), As Amended on April 5, 2005
Scheduled for Hearing in the Assembly Higher Education Committee on July 5, 2005
Position: Oppose

Dear Assembly Member Liu:

I am writing to express the University of California's (UC) opposition to SB 724. This measure would alter the Master Plan for Higher Education to authorize the California State University (CSU) to award doctoral degrees in "selected professional fields," excluding only the Ph.D. and doctorates in law, medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine. Under SB 724, CSU could offer doctoral degree programs in any of nearly 60 doctoral degree titles in use in the U.S.— including 17 approved for use at UC that CSU could potentially duplicate.

UC opposes the bill for the following reasons:

SB 724 opens the door to duplication of mission in doctoral-level education in California – exactly what the Master Plan is supposed to avoid. An essential component of the Master Plan is the differentiation of mission and function, whereby each of the public segments focuses on achieving excellence within its own set of distinctive responsibilities. High cost doctoral degree programs are limited among public universities in order to generate the resource savings that enables California to provide both a high quality and universal access to all students who seek a postsecondary education.

No independent needs assessment of the SB 724 proposal has been conducted. Before making such a major change to the structure of California higher education, an independent needs assessment should be undertaken. CSU states that there are unmet needs in disciplines such as Educational Leadership, Audiology, and Physical Therapy, yet has not asked the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) nor any other state agency to conduct an independent study of supply and demand in these fields and how any identified needs fit into the state's overall priorities for additional enrollments in higher education. A CPEC study in 2000 found that supply was adequate to meet demand for doctorates in education. No new study of the need for Ed.D.s has been conducted since then nor has there been any independent study of the need for CSU doctorates in other disciplines.

There already is a solution: joint doctorates between UC and CSU. There are already 21 CSU/UC joint doctoral degree programs, many of which have been initiated since this issue was last raised in the Legislature in 2002. UC is committed to continuing to develop and expand joint doctoral degree programs to meet emerging state educational needs.

Joint programs that combine the strengths of both systems will be higher in quality. In allied health fields, a higher quality program will result from combining CSU's strengths in offering practitioner-focused programs and its broader geographic reach with UC faculty experience in doctoral education and the vast clinical infrastructure of UC medical schools. A UC report shows that the state's need for doctoral degrees in Audiology can be met through joint programs between CSU campuses and UC medical centers, in which audiologists are trained side-by-side with medical residents in Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) in state-of-the-art clinics. A joint program between San Diego State University and the UC San Diego medical center already provides a high quality model for upgraded training for audiologists.

New Joint Ed.D. programs should be given a chance to work. A CSU-only doctorate in education could render useless the \$4.7 million UC and CSU have invested since 2001 to develop CSU/UC Joint Ed.D. programs. Three of those programs will be graduating their first students in 2006 and four others are just beginning. As new cohorts begin, enrollments in these programs are expected to double this year and eventually grow to accommodate 400-500 students (not including the large numbers of education doctoral degree students in other programs at UC and private institutions).

A recent national report by the Education Schools Project (directed by Arthur Levine, President, Teachers College, Columbia University) recommends training most future educational leaders in Master degree programs rather than through the Ed.D. UC already follows this model in programs such as the Principal Leadership Institutes, which provide current and aspiring K-12 principals with a Master's degree. Nevertheless, UC remains committed to the new Joint CSU/UC Ed.D. programs and the UCLA Ed.D. program. However, we do agree with the Levine report that doctoral programs in education should be of high quality and should not be excessively proliferated when there are other alternatives.

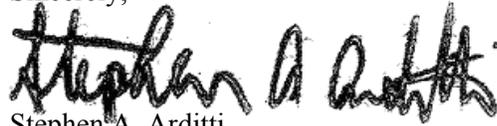
CSU doctoral degree programs will either result in significant state costs or in diverting resources away from CSU's primary missions of undergraduate, teacher, and master's level education. CSU claims there will be "no cost" to the state in taking on this additional mission because these students would be within planned enrollment levels and funded through CSU's current marginal cost and higher student fees. Even at current marginal cost, CSU's plan to enroll 1,500 new Ed.D. students would cost the state a minimum of \$9.4 million per year. There would be additional costs for program start-up and for enrolling more students in high-cost disciplines such as Audiology and Physical Therapy. CSU must either seek additional funding from the state or divert resources from other CSU activities such as its core mission of educating undergraduates, an area where CSU already is enrolling fewer students than called for by the Master Plan.

The most recent legislative review (2002) of the Master Plan reaffirmed differentiation of mission among the segments. Formal legislative reviews of the Master Plan were completed in 1989 and 2002, in which all aspects of the plan were on the table. Both reaffirmed the differentiation of missions among the segments, including the provisions on doctorates. The Master Plan should not be changed in a piecemeal fashion.

UC is willing to discuss alternatives. UC, at the request of many in Sacramento, is willing to discuss alternatives to SB 724 and has had discussions with CSU. Regrettably, no agreement has been reached. Thus, UC remains strongly opposed to the bill in its current form.

As always, we appreciate your consideration of our views. If you or your staff have questions regarding our position on this issue, please do not hesitate to call me or Brian Rivas of my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen A. Arditti". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Stephen A. Arditti
Assistant Vice President and Director
State Governmental Relations

cc: Members of the Assembly Higher Education Committee
Senator Jack Scott
President Robert C. Dynes
Senior Vice President Bruce B. Darling