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Stephen A. Arditti, Assistant Vice President and Director

July 5, 2005

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

Re: SB 724 (Scott)

Dear Assembly Member Liu:

I am writing to express the University of California's (UC) appreciation for your leadership and efforts to maintain California's Master Plan for Higher Education. I am also writing to inform you that UC and the California State University (CSU) have agreed to amendments that will remove UC's opposition to SB 724. I am advised that Senator Scott will present the amendments to you and members of the Assembly Higher Education Committee when SB 724 is heard today.

The agreement reaffirms the Master Plan for Higher Education's differentiation of function among the segments of California higher education, which has allowed the state to provide universal access to postsecondary education while preserving quality. As amended, SB 724 would make an exception to the Master Plan by authorizing CSU to independently award a specifically tailored Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree. This degree will be designed to meet the state's needs for training K-12 and community college administrators.

The Ed.D. will be offered by CSU through partnerships with California public schools and California Community Colleges, "which shall participate substantively in program design, candidate recruitment and admissions, teaching, and program assessment and evaluation. The degree shall enable professionals to earn the degree while working full-time."

We at UC will retain our commitment to our independent Ed.D. programs, our joint Ed.D. programs with CSU, and our many other training and professional development programs for teachers and administrators. We also intend to work with CSU to expand our joint doctoral programs in audiology in order to meet state workforce needs in this field. We anticipate working with CSU to develop a joint budget request for state support of this expansion.

While this has been a difficult issue for all involved, I believe this agreement allows California's institutions of higher education to meet the leadership needs of the public schools and community colleges while retaining the core Master Plan principles that have made our state's system of postsecondary education so successful.

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As always, we appreciate your consideration of our views. If you or your staff would like more information regarding our position on this issue, please call me or Brian Rivas of my staff.

Sincerely,



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 and Provost M.R.C. Greenwood
Senior Vice President Bruce B. Darling