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April 3, 2017

The Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 2083
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 577 (Dodd), as introduced February 17, 2017
Scheduled for hearing in the Senate Education Committee on April 5, 2017
Position: CONCERN

Dear Chair Allen:

The University of California (UC) would like to respectfully express its concerns regarding SB 577, a measure that would authorize the California Community Colleges (CCC) to offer teacher credentialing programs of professional preparation.

We are concerned the enactment of SB 577 would result in the duplication of teacher education programs offered at UC and other institutions throughout the state, and that there are more efficient uses of resources to address the state's needs in the area of teacher education. In a time of limited state resources, we believe priority should be given to support existing programs to address the state's teacher shortage instead of creating new programs. A more efficient use of resources to meet the intent of the bill would be to make scholarship or program development funding available to existing institutions and to encourage partnerships among institutions. For example, through recently available state funding for the development of integrated teacher education programs, several UC campuses (UCLA and UC Irvine) have been collaborating with the CCC on these efforts.

We believe an evaluation of the need for new programs should be conducted first to ensure the proposed CCC teacher credentialing programs do not replace programs offered by UC in the region. UC remains committed to being a partner in helping address the need for quality teachers in the state, and data for 2015-16 shows that UC enrollments in teacher education programs are on the rise, with roughly 1,000 students currently enrolled in one of eight of UC's teacher education programs. The share of UC-produced new credential candidates across higher education segments has grown within the last five years. Similarly, students' rate of completion at UC programs has also increased in recent years.

Of most concern to the University, this legislation would authorize the community colleges to offer graduate-level education. Notwithstanding the framework under California's *Master Plan for Higher Education (Master Plan)* and the Donahoe Higher Education Act, SB 850 (Block) of 2014 authorized the CCC to offer a baccalaureate degree pilot program at up to 15 CCC districts commencing in 2015. The purpose of the pilot was to meet *specific* workforce demands and to increase access to four-year degrees in the state. SB 850 specified, however, that the CCC pilot programs could not offer a baccalaureate degree program or program curricula already offered by a UC or CSU. We believe an evaluation of the baccalaureate pilot program should be undertaken before this new authority is granted under SB 577. We feel strongly that the expansion of CCC's authority to offer post-baccalaureate degrees as proposed under the bill does not comport with the agreement reached when SB 850 was enacted, and ultimately undermines the University's mission as guided by the *Master Plan* framework.

On behalf of the University, we would like to thank you for your consideration of our views. Should you have any questions about the University's position on this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-9924.

Sincerely,



Nadia Leal-Carrillo
Legislative Director

cc: Senator Jerry Bill Dodd
Vice Chair and Members, Senate Education Committee
President Janet Napolitano
Executive Vice President and CFO Nathan Brostrom
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