November 22, 2016

Dear campus community,

The day following the presidential election, the 10 Chancellors and the President of the University of California issued a statement to underscore their unwavering support for all members of the UC community in accord with the University’s Principles Against Intolerance. As the Principles make clear, the University “strives to foster an environment in which all are included” and “all are given an equal opportunity to learn and explore” free of harassment based on immigration status, racial/ethnic background, religion, sexual orientation, or political views (both liberal and conservative).

Particularly since the election, there have been disturbing reports from across the nation of intimidation, harassment, and, in some cases, violence against individuals and targeted groups. Here at UCSB, community members have reported threats and harassment. We are extremely concerned about the levels of animosity that members of our community are exhibiting toward others with different beliefs.

There have been hateful statements posted on-line specifically in opposition to our undocumented community. These threats are counter to our community principles and our values, and we condemn any such statements. UC Santa Barbara supports our undocumented students, and we affirm our commitment to providing services to meet their needs and promote their success.

Many of our students have expressed uncertainty and fear over possible changes to federal immigration policies that may directly affect them, their families, and/or their friends, as well as the University as a whole. As such, President Napolitano has convened a working group to develop the best and most effective responses by UC to possible changes to federal immigration policies under the incoming administration. The unequivocal goal of these efforts is to protect all members of our community and ensure their continued success at the University. The working group is moving quickly, and we will keep you posted about its efforts. At UCSB, we are providing legal consultation and support services.

If you believe you have witnessed, or that you have been a target of a hate-or bias-motivated incident you may make a report to the University online or by calling 805-893-5016. Reports can be submitted anonymously. The UC Police may be reached by calling 805-893-3446, or 911 in an emergency. Whether or not you want to make an official report, please know that there are resources available to you on campus.

We want to remind all community members of the resources that are available for support.

• Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) – consultation available 24/7 at 805-893-4411
• Graduate Division
• Office of Student Life (OSL) – advising regarding speech, advocacy, and posting, support for student organizations representing all ideologies
• MultiCultural Center (MCC)
• Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
• Executive Director, Associated Students, 805-893-4141
• Office of the Ombuds – conflict management resources
• Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (RCSGD)
• Undocumented Student Services
• Office of International Students and Scholars

Let us continue our interactions with one another in the spirit of respect and cooperation. As noted in the UC Principles Against Intolerance, “(we are) best served when members of the University community collaborate to foster an equal learning environment for all, in which all members of the community are welcomed and confident of their physical safety.”

Sincerely,
Margaret Klawunn
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs