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In our recent history here at UC Davis, before many of us arrived, the university s police department went through a major overhaul. In 2014, UC Davis instituted a Police Accountability Board, an independent board composed of students, staff, and faculty from both the Davis and Sacramento campuses. It s the only one of its kind in the UC system and one of very few at other universities across the nation. The department created a student cadet academy to train diverse candidates for a career in law enforcement. Many of those students are now serving our campus community. The department has focused on mental health and crisis training for its officers. Finally, the department is meeting all 176 accreditation requirements, which will be completed by fall 2020, for the highest professional standards under the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

However, as law enforcement departments across the country are scrutinized—and justly so—for how they respond to and interact with others, I m calling on our community to come together and examine what we can do to improve our community policing.

I write today to invite you to serve on a newly formed Task Force called Next Generation Reforms to Advance Campus Safety. The task force is charged with considering how safety is best achieved on both the Davis and Sacramento campuses.

The Task Force is asked to discuss and assess what a police department should look like for an educational environment and a health-focused one. What are its values and how should it reflect those values? Whom does it serve? How does it represent those it does serve and how should it bridge gaps? How should its members interact with the community? How should its members and the department as a whole be accountable to the community? What practices or philosophies are worth preserving? If we start from scratch, what does that look like?

These are examples of questions or issues to address, and not a pre-determined list. I know you have ideas, concerns and solutions to bring to the table, and I value your input.

I ask the task force to convene and facilitate discussions with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members to solicit their thoughts and perspectives. I encourage the Task Force to seek out members of our community who represent the most critical views of policing, as well as those who have positive associations. We must hear from people with a variety of opinions to develop common ground on which to build.

I recognize this is not an easy task—it is one that requires thoughtfulness and care. With that in mind, I ask that the task force deliver its recommendations to me by December 15, 2020, so we can begin to consider and implement recommendations within the 2020-21 academic year.

I have asked Renetta Tull, Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Kevin Johnson, Dean of the School of Law, to serve as co-chairs of the Task Force, and they have both graciously agreed to do so.

I believe our university is evolving to better reflect the needs o wb /PsETQq0.00000912- evolving to b

