

March 23, 2020

Professor Sharmila Majumdar, PhD
Chair, UCSF Academic Senate

RE: Standardized Testing Task Force Report

Dear Chair Majumdar,

I write on behalf of the School of Medicine Faculty Council to support the report and recommendations of the Academic Council's Standardized Testing Task Force. The Task Force's recommendations are the product of a thoughtful and data-driven analysis, and the Council appreciated the rigorous and thorough report of the Task Force.

The SOMFC generally supports the recommendations of the Task Force, particularly the recommendation to continue using ACT/SAT test results to inform undergraduate admission decisions unless and until the University designs its own standardized admissions test. The SOMFC was persuaded that mandatory ACT/SAT scores enable the University to admit more disadvantaged students than it could without the scores because the University is able to contextualize individual test scores. This makes it easier, not harder, to find students with great potential in challenging circumstances. It is critically important to the School of Medicine that the University of California admit, train, and graduate a diverse student body. These undergraduate students are the future health care workforce, and that workforce needs to be diverse to serve California's wide-ranging population.

The School of Medicine Faculty Council appreciated the Task Force's evaluation of the significant investment of time and money needed for the University to develop its own standardized test. The Council did not feel qualified to comment on whether that investment would be a sufficiently better evaluation tool than contextualized ACT/SAT scores. Whether the University seeks to develop its own test or not, the SOMFC hopes the University will follow the numbers and the guidance of the Task Force as it works to improve the admissions process and educate a student body that reflects California.

Sincerely,



Jailing Liu, PhD
Chair, School of Medicine Faculty Council
UCSF Academic Senate
2019-2020