<u>Restructuring UCSA into Undergraduate and Graduate/Professional Chapters</u>

Joint governance and shared meetings between undergraduate and graduate/professional students is a powerful tool, empowering all students. Speaking with one voice about issues pertinent to both populations is a powerful statement. Each group brings different lived experiences to the table, and the diversity of experiences makes advocacy that reaches every student at the UC. However, concerns have been raised about the current operating structure of the UCSA Board: the appropriate voices to participate in meetings, representative voice of leadership, and efficiency and priorities for the limited time available. To rectify these concerns, major shifts in the structure of the UCSA Board are proposed.

<u>Principles</u>
1. Expand and empower the roles of the undergraduate and graduate/professional committees into separate 'chapters' of UCSA, devolving advocacy from the Board to the chapters.
2. Refocus the Board to fiduciary management of the organization to empower chapters.
3. Allow for distinct voices for undergraduate and graduate/professional students via shared representation to UCOP and the Regents.
4. Comply with existing constraints around access to UCOP and the Regents, but intentionally normalise recognising the different needs of each chapter, with the goal of UCOP and the Regents recognizing each chapter's representation of each population.

<u>Specific Changes</u>
1. Due to the intricacies of a charter amendment, formally restructuring the President into co-presidents is impractical in the short term. Instead, bylaw changes can redefine the role of the President to elevate undergraduate and graduate/professional chairs, who would split existing time to speak to, e.g, the regents on behalf of each chapter.
2. Redefine the Board to focus solely on administrative and fiduciary responsibilities of the organization, in a manner similar to the existing Executive Committee.
    a. Limit the Board to e.g., oversight of the budget, personnel, and facilitating co-operation, when advantageous, between chapters. This should allow the Board itself to meet less frequently (or for less time) and allow External Vice Presidents to devote more time to the work of each chapter.
    b. Implement means to apportion StAR and Systemwide Committee Representatives to the chapters to select, then formally put representatives selected by the chapters as UCSA's selections.
    c. Implement means to facilitate joint statements or positions between the chapters.
    d. Implement means to consider selection of conference hosts based on the recommendations of the chapters.
3. Empower chapters to operate more independently:
    a. Empower chapters to adopt their own bylaws, operating procedures, standing committees, meeting schedule, and membership standards (e.g. voting rights.)

b. Empower each chapter to speak (e.g. to UCOP, the legislature, and the press) and select representatives (e.g. StARs) on behalf of their representative population.
c. Empower chapters to consider positions or priorities independently.
d. Empower chapters to solicit bids and select conferences and hosts or recommend to the Board joint conferences.
e. Empower chapters to recommend budget priorities to the Board for approval.

Other Notes
Conferences

In past years, all conferences have been joint between undergraduate and graduate/professional students. This year, specific programming for graduate students was undertaken at SLC and Congress. This framework would allow for individual chapters to host separate organizing and lobby conferences to better serve each group, or for proposals for joint conferences to be considered by the Board.

Since SOCC relies on a bidding process, bids would be solicited from member organizations. To then submit a bid for a joint conference, the undergraduate association would submit a bid to the undergraduate chapter; the graduate/professional association would submit a bid to the graduate/professional chapter; in principle after collaboration between the two associations and the nature of joint programming identified.

Proposed Collaboration Mechanism
Autonomy does not mean the lack of collaboration. Upon adoption of undergraduate and graduate chapter campaigns and agendas, a committee of the board of directors will be able to identify opportunities for collaboration, including co-branding. This same committee would be able to act on additional issues identified by the chapters as the year progresses.

Proposed Action:
Refer this document to UG and Grad/Prof committees for discussion, specifically: identifying issues of concern, identification of ambiguities created, immediately budget changes that would be necessary upon adoption, and the creation of a similar top-sheet proposals for chapters organizational structure (to ensure a functional transition.)

With feedback from committee, an updated draft of this proposal will be prepared for the Board's endorsement with

WHEREAS the Proposal included above identifies means to address systematic issues with the operation of UCSA;

WHEREAS extensive discussion has occurred identifying advantages of maintaining the possibility of collaboration between undergraduate and graduate/professional students, but without limiting either group when differences in agendas or priorities emerge;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the officers of the UCSA Board of Directors and any returning EVPs are directed to prepare necessary bylaw and budget changes, and submit, with proper notice to take action upon, the bylaw and budget changes outlined in the above proposal in concept form at the July Board Meeting for consideration and adoption; further be it

RESOLVED that officers and staff are directed include in the agenda for SOS or a Graduate Summit time to prepare bylaws and procedures for each chapter; finally be it

RESOLVED the President is directed to begin work immediately to secure agreements to institutionalize access for an undergraduate and graduate/professional representative in meetings with UCOP, the Academic Senate, the Regents, state government, and other external partners.