

# **FACING THE FUTURE**

BFA Forum on the challenges facing the next UC President with

## **Regent Chair, John Pérez and Chancellor Carol Christ**

5<sup>th</sup> February 2020, The Social Science Matrix, 820 Barrows Hall, 5-7pm

A conversation moderated by

## **Professors Wendy Brown and James Vernon**

Format: Regent Chair Pérez and Chancellor Christ will be asked to respond briefly to the following questions, setting the scene for questions from, and discussion, with the audience.

### **The Mission**

- 1) How would you describe in a few sentences what distinguishes public from private universities today?
- 2) What are the biggest challenges the new UC President faces in making the system better reflect, and better serve, California's increasingly diverse population? Do you have any suggestions here?
- 3) Many today speak of college in terms of job training and income enhancement potential. They also often fault us for inadequately preparing students for professions. Should UC be preparing students for jobs or educating them in ways that enriches their lives as human beings and our collective civic and political culture? How, given all the pressure to streamline higher education and move students rapidly through degree programs, is it possible to do both? Is the liberal arts model of higher education over?
- 4) How can or should the new president formulate UC's role in addressing the climate crisis?

### **Funding UC**

- 5) Since it's clear that we can't run UC and maintain quality with 1.3% net annual GF increases, and it is also clear that people in CA and the US don't want tuition hikes, how do you suggest UC close the \$734 M operating deficit that UCOP estimates for 2023-24? And how can it tackle the enormous problems of deferred maintenance? What do you consider the prospects, and most likely vehicle, for renewed state investment?

6) Given the profoundly different capacities to attract donor funding of the 10 campuses and of the varieties of departments and programs on each campus, what are the pitfalls of increasing reliance on private over state funding? How can these be mitigated?

7) While the cohort tuition will help low income families make better financial plans, what can the new UC President do to help reduce the rising, if unevenly spread, total cost of attendance for students across the 10 campuses? And what can be done to tackle the higher debt levels of lower income families in proportion to household income? Do you consider the various free tuition or debt-free plans proposed by Democratic Presidential candidates viable?

### **Governance**

8) Some argue that shared governance among faculty and administration is largely a thing of an ivory tower past, when higher education institutions were not run like the business entities that they are. Your view?

Questions from the audience