



**To: Administrative Officers, Deans, Department Chairs, Directors,
Faculty, Vice Chancellors and Vice Provosts**

Dear Colleagues:

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Marissa López as our newest Associate Dean in the Graduate Division, effective January 10, 2022. Dr. López is a Professor of English and of Chicana/o and Central American Studies. Through her research on Chicana literature across the nineteenth century and her work, both nationally and on campus, on issues pertaining to Ph.D. mentoring, career diversity, and wellness, Dr. López has demonstrated her commitment to issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

As Associate Dean, Dr. López will provide leadership in advancing diversity and excellence in graduate and postdoctoral education. She will support faculty and units in their efforts to advance best practices in admissions, mentoring and professional development and to create an inclusive and equitable climate that supports the success of all students.

In addition to reviewing policy exceptions and carrying out other routine Associate Dean functions, Associate Dean López will work closely with the Graduate Division's Diversity, Inclusion and Admissions (DIA) unit on student outreach, pipeline programs, and admissions to recruit a diverse and accomplished graduate student body.

Dr. López has been fundamental to promoting diversity, equity, and

inclusion in the professional, academic humanities by initiating structural change ensuring that every student has equal access to the information, mentoring, and opportunities they need to reach their goals. For example, she has led efforts to systematize mentoring at the university, rather than trust in the informal relationships that are proven to disadvantage underrepresented minority and first-generation students.

Since 2018, Dr. López has been part of the Alliance for Multi-campus Inclusive Graduate Admissions (AMIGA), a Mellon-funded initiative currently run through the UCLA Division of Humanities in partnership with UC Davis and USC to develop holistic admissions across the UC system. Through this work, she has gained knowledge about Graduate Division's admissions priorities, challenges, and goals, liaised with faculty and campus partners, and developed strategies for more inclusive admissions practices in collaboration with departmental leadership.

Dr. López has, in addition, chaired UCLA's Academic Senate Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. During her time in the position, she ensured that the CODEI chair was a standing member of the Executive Council (UCLA being the last UC campus for which that was not already the case), and developed a pilot program with the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils that assigned a CODEI member to each 8-year program review team.

Dr. López will be joining Dr. Onyebuchi (Onyi) Arah and Dr. Renate Lux as Associate Deans in the Graduate Division. They will share responsibility for liaising with campus departments and programs, advancing diversity and excellence in graduate education, and working with the Graduate Council and departments to ensure that our graduate students and postdoctoral scholars have the resources they need to be successful at UCLA and in their future careers.

More information about which of our associate deans serves as the Graduate Division liaison to your School or Division may be found on our [Associate Dean Departmental Liaison Chart \(PDF\)](#).

I would like to thank the following search committee members for their time and effort in the selection process:

- Onyi Arah, Associate Dean, Graduate Division (Co-Chair)
- Renate Lux, Associate Dean, Graduate Division (Co-Chair)
- Victoria Marks, Professor, World Arts & Cultures
- Ana Lebon, Assistant Dean of Fellowships and Financial Services, Graduate Division
- Daniel Wong, Assistant Dean of Academic and Postdoctoral Services, Graduate Division
- Joshua Hernandez, Diversity, Inclusion & Admission Officer, Graduate Division

With best regards,

Susan L. Ettner

Dean of Graduate Education

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