



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

January 13, 2016

Dear Members of our Campus Community,

Happy New Year!

I write to share with you the news that our colleague Melvin L. Oliver, SAGE Sara Miller McCune Dean of Social Sciences and Executive Dean of the College of Letters and Science, has accepted the offer to be the next President of Pitzer College in Claremont, California. We will miss him greatly, but at the same time we are so pleased and proud for him as he takes on this exciting and important leadership position.

Dean Oliver plans to assume the presidency at Pitzer College on July 1. We will move quickly to consult with our Academic Senate, faculty, and administrative colleagues in order to form a search advisory committee for our next Dean of Social Sciences.

Dean Oliver has served as Dean of Social Sciences since 2004; he became the inaugural SAGE Sara Miller McCune Dean of Social Sciences in 2008. Since 2012 he also has served as L&S Executive Dean. We are very appreciative of his extraordinary contributions to the Division of Social Sciences, the College of Letters and Science, and our entire academic community during the past 12 years. His vision and leadership have shaped the academic profile of social sciences at UC Santa Barbara, and he has been exemplary in advancing our commitment to diversity among students, faculty, and staff. Among his many accomplishments, he served as Co-PI of the McNair Program, which helps prepare qualified underrepresented and first-generation undergraduates for entrance to a Ph.D. program in all fields of study. Dean Oliver oversaw the introduction of three new interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs during his tenure (Chicana/o Studies, Feminist Studies, and Global Studies), as well as the M.A. program in Global Civil Society in Global Studies and the Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies; he also raised funding to establish our Leonard and Gretchan Broom Center for Social Demography.

A highly respected professor of sociology, Dean Oliver began his academic career at UCLA, where he was a professor from 1978 to 1996, serving as Chair of the Interdepartmental M.A. Program in Afro-American Studies and Founding Director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Urban Poverty. From 1996 to 2004 he was Vice President of the Ford Foundation, where he led its global work on poverty reduction. He has been the recipient of numerous fellowships and awards, including the Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship (1982-83), the Rockefeller Foundation Research Fellowship for

Minority Scholars (1984-1986), and over \$5 million in research support from NSF, Ford, Rockefeller, Russell Sage, Haynes, and Social Science Research Council, among others. Dean Oliver's book, *Black Wealth/White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality*, has received a number of honors, including the Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award from the American Sociological Association, the C. Wright Mills Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and the award for the outstanding book on the subject of human rights from the Gustavus Myers Center. He is an elected member of the Sociological Research Association and elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Please join me in extending our warmest congratulations to Dean Oliver. We wish him and Suzanne Oliver all the best as they embark on this wonderful new challenge and opportunity.

Sincerely,

Henry T. Yang
Chancellor