Deans, Directors, Department Chairs, and Faculty:

Following the retirement of Associate Dean Carlos Grijalva, I am delighted to announce the appointment of two new Associate Deans in the Graduate Division, effective March 1, 2017.

Susan Ettner is a Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research in the Department of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, with a joint appointment in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the Fielding School of Public Health. Susan obtained her PhD in Economics at MIT and was on the faculty of Harvard Medical School before joining UCLA in 1999. Her research interests focus on health policy and health services, particularly in the areas of mental health, chronic disability and substance use disorders. She currently directs the TL1 pre- and postdoctoral training program for the UCLA Clinical Translational Science Institute and is PI or co-investigator on grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control. In addition to serving on numerous advisory committees in the School of Medicine, Susan has chaired the UCLA Academic Senate Committee on Faculty Welfare and the Charges Committee and played a key role supervising the statistical data analysis for the School of Medicine Gender Equity Committee. She currently serves on the Grievance Advisory Council and the Center for the Study of Women Advisors Committee. Susan brings to the role of Associate Dean broad expertise in shared governance, graduate/professional education, inter- and multidisciplinary scholarship, mentoring, and professional and career development for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.

Norma Mendoza-Denton is a Professor of Anthropology who is also affiliated with the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center and the Center for Language, Interaction and Culture. Norma earned her PhD at Stanford University in Linguistics. Following faculty appointments at the Ohio State University and the University of Arizona, she joined the UCLA faculty in 2014. A renowned expert in sociolinguistics, youth subcultures, and bilingualism, she has held significant leadership positions in the American Anthropological Association, including serving as President of its Society for Linguistic Anthropology, as well as on the Committee of Visitors for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate at the National Science Foundation. At the University of Arizona, Norma co-directed the joint PhD program in Linguistics and Anthropology, transforming online course offerings and implementing new mentoring structures for collaborative learning teams. Building on her experience with that university’s reaccreditation and program review processes, Norma now serves on the UCLA Graduate Council. Throughout her career, she has been actively engaged in outreach and has been an effective mentor, guiding thirty minority, female and LGBTQ doctoral students, among others. She is committed to advancing diversity at UCLA and to supporting the success of graduate students as they progress through their degree programs and into a wide range of careers.

Professors Ettner and Mendoza-Denton join Professor Joe Watson, who is continuing as Associate Dean 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.
I take this opportunity to thank the search committee members for their very important work: Associate Dean Joe Watson, Assistant Vice Provost Sam Bersola, Graduate Council Chair Jessica Catellino, Professor Evelyn Blumenberg, and Assistant Deans April de Stefano, Anne Dela Cruz and Ana Lebon.

Please join me in welcoming Susan Ettner and Norma Mendoza-Denton to their new positions in the Graduate Division.

With best regards,

Robin L. Garrell  
Vice Provost for Graduate Education  
Dean, Graduate Division