

**From:** Dean Susan L. Ettner

**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 2:31 PM

**Subject:** Appointment of New Chief of Staff/Chief Financial Officer for the Graduate Division



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

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Kristen McKinney as the Chief of Staff/Chief Financial Officer for the Graduate Division, effective November 29, 2021. Dr. McKinney will be taking on the responsibilities previously assumed by Assistant Vice Provost and Chief Financial Officer Samuel Bersola until his departure from the Graduate Division in February 2021.

Dr. McKinney holds both a master's and a doctorate in Higher Education and Organizational Change from the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. She has served as the Director for UCLA's Student Affairs Information and Research Office (SAIRO) since 2011, providing leadership for significant growth in the scope and complexity of SAIRO departmental functions. Dr. McKinney possesses a strong background in project management, data collection and analysis, and the use of data to answer strategic questions. She is looking forward to the opportunity to expand her strategic problem-solving focus to a broader scope of goals and challenges in the Graduate Division.

Prior to joining SAIRO, Dr. McKinney held a variety of student affairs and institutional research and assessment positions. In particular, she served

as the Research, Evaluation, and Grant Coordinator for Student Development Health Education, developing and implementing an ongoing research agenda, including oversight of UCLA's participation in several system-wide alcohol harm reduction grant projects. As the Associate Director of the Bruin Resource Center, Dr. McKinney oversaw the development of the population programs and coordination of the Life Skills Program, including serving as an instructor for the course. Beyond Life Skills, Dr. McKinney has also taught a variety of courses in education topics, particularly student development, campus climate, and research methods and assessment.

Dr. McKinney has served the higher education profession nationally as part of the Directorate Board for the Commission for Assessment and Evaluation of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA), including a term as Commission Chair. Dr. McKinney has served as a faculty and planning team member for the ACPA Assessment Institute for eight years, and Institute Chair for two. Dr. McKinney also served as the University of California representative to the Student Experience in the Research University (SERU) consortium.

As Chief of Staff and CFO of the Graduate Division, Dr. McKinney will actively participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and procedures governing graduate education at UCLA and all functions that support the programmatic activities of graduate programs and the administrative and regulatory functions of the Graduate Division. This includes consultative, coordination, and liaison activities with the associate deans and staff within the Graduate Division; senior leaders in the academic and administrative units throughout the UCLA campus, and executive senior leadership at the ten UC campuses and Office of the President.

Dr. McKinney will also be responsible for ensuring continued evaluation and transformation of Graduate Division processes, services and information to effectively address both ongoing needs and emerging issues in the support of graduate education at UCLA. This involves integrating strategic, operational and budgetary planning, including effective deployment of human, financial and technological resources, both within the Graduate Division and in cooperation with other campus

and business units, to advance the interests of graduate education and the welfare of graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and visiting graduate researchers. In this capacity, Dr. McKinney will represent and advocate on behalf of the Graduate Division in various settings and with diverse constituent groups.

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

- Onyebuchi Arah (Associate Dean, Graduate Division)
- Anne Dela Cruz (Director of Human Resources & Payroll Operations Center, Campus Human Resources)
- Ana Lebon (Assistant Dean of Fellowships & Financial Services, Graduate Division)
- Rebecca Lee-Garcia (Director of Financial Analysis & Decision Support, Academic Planning & Budget)
- Maianh Nguyen (Director of Budget & Personnel, Graduate Division)
- Chris Testa (Director of Information Technology & Institutional Research, Graduate Division)

Please join me in congratulating Dr. McKinney and welcoming her as the new Chief of Staff and Chief Financial Officer in the Graduate Division.

Best regards,

**Susan L. Ettner**

Dean of Graduate Education

The UCLA logo is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a solid blue rectangular background.

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