

**From:** Dean of Graduate Education Susan L. Ettner

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 3:31 PM

**Subject:** Appointment of Daniel Wong as the Assistant Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Success



**To: Deans, Department Chairs, Directors, Faculty and Student Affairs Officers**

**What you need to know:**

- The Division of Graduate Education has a new unit, Graduate & Postdoctoral Success (GPS), which will facilitate graduate student and postdoctoral scholar success through academic case management and professional development, mentoring and retention initiatives.
- Dr. Daniel Wong is the inaugural Assistant Dean for GPS.

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Daniel Wong as the inaugural Assistant Dean for our new Graduate & Postdoctoral Success (GPS) unit, effective August 1, 2022. This unit will facilitate student and postdoctoral success through training, advising, mentoring, and professional development.

Daniel has served as the Assistant Dean for Academic & Postdoctoral Services (APS) in the Division of Graduate Education since 2020. Prior to joining UCLA, Daniel held various leadership positions in Academic Affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he earned a Ph.D. in English Literature. At Illinois, Daniel designed and managed programs that support the recruitment, retention, academic success, and professional development of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. These efforts included co-creating an apprenticeship program that provides an opportunity for first and second-year undergraduate students to assist advanced graduate students in their dissertation research projects. He also developed and led a mentor training and certificate program that teaches effective, culturally competent, student-centered mentoring practices.

In the Division of Graduate Education, Daniel has expertly established strategic cross-campus and external partnerships while working with the Academic & Postdoctoral Services team to support graduate student academic progress, policy coordination, postdoctoral scholar and visiting graduate researcher appointments, and professional development for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. As a member of the Humanities Advancing Mentorship workgroup, Daniel helped to adapt the peer-reviewed and widely regarded Entering Mentoring curriculum for the Humanities at UCLA, which he has already begun to pilot. As co-chair of the Graduate and Professional Student Welfare Committee, he has collaborated with students, staff, administrators, and faculty to create the structures and avenues needed to support the academic success and personal and professional wellbeing of graduate and professional school students.

I am delighted that Daniel has accepted the position of GPS Assistant Dean. In this role, he will be responsible for providing leadership, strategy, and engagement pertaining to cross-campus collaborative professional development for postdoctoral scholars and graduate students, graduate student mentorship initiatives (including faculty mentor training), retention programming for underrepresented students,

and case management for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars facing challenges to their academic progress. He and his team will continue to work closely with our campus partners to propose and design policies and processes to support student success and retention, while collaborating with UCLA Student Affairs to envision and deliver programming to encourage diverse career pathways.

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

- Onyebuchi Arah (Associate Dean, Division of Graduate Education)
- Kristen McKinney (Chief of Staff and CFO, Division of Graduate Education)
- Tiara Wair (Assistant Dean, Division of Graduate Education)
- Briana Muñoz-Flores (Manager, Retention Initiatives, Division of Graduate Education)
- Theodore Robles (Professor of Psychology and Vice Chair of Graduate Studies)
- Isabel Benvenuti (Graduate Student)

Please join me in congratulating Daniel Wong on his new position!

Best regards,

**Susan L. Ettner**

Dean of Graduate Education

The UCLA logo is centered within a solid blue rectangular bar. The letters "UCLA" are rendered in a white, bold, sans-serif font.