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

What you need to know:
- Estrella Arciba has been appointed as the new Assistant Dean of Academic and Postdoctoral Services (APS).
- In the role, she will oversee the policies, procedures, and services that support graduate student academic progress and the appointments of postdoctoral scholars and visiting graduate researchers.

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Estrella Arciba as the Assistant Dean for our Academic and Postdoctoral Services (APS) unit, effective December 2, 2022. The APS unit is responsible for advancing the academic life cycle of graduate students and overseeing the appointment of postdoctoral scholars and visiting graduate researchers (VGRs).
Estrella is a former Division of Graduate Education (DGE) staff member and returns by way of the Academic Senate, where she has worked since 2016 and served as Assistant Director since July 2021. Estrella is well-versed in both the Academic Senate’s role in shared governance and the DGE’s implementation of policies and procedures set forth by the Academic Senate. As Assistant Director of the Academic Senate, she has provided institutional memory and high-level policy and data analysis to the Graduate Council, Undergraduate Council, other academic program- and policy-related committees, and Academic Senate leadership.

Some of Estrella’s many notable accomplishments include implementing and staffing a large workgroup focused on improving graduate student mentorship; implementing new guidelines for review and approval of new graduate degree proposals; taking a leadership role in the development of a new TA training program on campus; crafting policies to support graduate student academic degree progress; and working closely with the Graduate Council Chair to create the Standing Committee on Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs and negotiate significant financial support for graduate student fellowships to support diversity.

Estrella is very familiar with the volume, scope, and impact of APS unit operations. She has been involved with the development, application, analysis and dissemination of a wide range of UC and UCLA Senate Regulations and related policies and procedures. Estrella has also collaborated and communicated with campus partners to ensure the fair and equitable application of policies delegated by the Academic Senate to the DGE to regulate graduate education and postdoctoral study at UCLA.

As the APS Assistant Dean, Estrella will oversee the policies, procedures, and services that support graduate student academic progress and the appointments of postdoctoral scholars and VGRs. She will be responsible for advising the DGE and campus leadership and communicating with university stakeholders on these matters.
will also review and approve changes to graduate degree program requirements and course actions by delegated authority from the Graduate Council and represent graduate academic services to the campus and external communities.

Estrella is a graduate of UCLA with bachelor's degrees in International Development Studies and Chicana/o Studies. She earned a master's degree in International Relations from Alliant International University. She is currently a participant in the selective UC Women’s Initiative for Professional Development program.

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

- Renate Lux (Associate Dean, Division of Graduate Education)
- Kristen McKinney (Chief of Staff and CFO, Division of Graduate Education)
- Victor Valdez (Manager of Academic Services, Division of Graduate Education)
- Jenny Lee (Student Affairs Officer, Neuroscience)
- Ivy Kwok (Graduate Student)

Please join me in congratulating Estrella Arciba on her new position!

Best regards,

Susan L. Ettner
Dean of Graduate Education