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June 26, 2018

University Council – AFT Executive Board

Dear UC-AFT Executive Board members:

Thank you for your letter of June 18 regarding the University of California's contract with General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) for the administration of UC's Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE).

First, GDIT has been a UC partner for many years. The company and its employees have served thousands of UC students and high schools annually in their work for the University. The support and services provided by GDIT are critical to satisfy the UC Academic Senate Regulations on Entry Level Writing Requirement as well as UC Regents policy. The AWPE contract with GDIT was secured through a competitive bid process and there are very few organizations willing and able to perform these services.

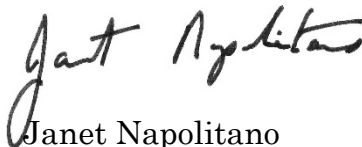
GDIT services to UC include only the large-scale operational support for the exam that would be difficult for UC Office of the President or any of the campuses to provide when simultaneously testing approximately 16,000 students at more than 100 locations across California and scoring those exams within a small window of time. GDIT support includes high school test site management, student test site assignments and notifications, exam material printing/shipping/scanning, call center services, IT support for the online scoring system, and test site and exam reader compensation. UC maintains sole responsibility for the educational aspects of the exam including test development, pre-testing, writing prompt selection, identification of exam readers, reader training, and score norming. Ending our contract at this moment would be detrimental and disruptive not only to UC but to thousands of new and prospective students.

Furthermore, I have spoken publicly against the zero-tolerance policy separating immigrant children from their parents, which I find to be cruel and morally unjustified. I have been assured by GDIT leadership that it provides casework support services to help ensure special needs of unaccompanied children are met, including medical requirements, and to facilitate family reunification only after children are under the care of Health and Human Services. GDIT has stated publically that it has no role in the family separation policy and plays no role in the construction or operation of detention facilities.

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Thank you for articulating your concerns and bringing the issue of a broken federal immigration policy to the fore. I will continue to stand up for our Dreamers and continue my advocacy for immigration reform that reflects the true values of the University of California and the State of California.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Napolitano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Janet" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Napolitano".

Janet Napolitano
President

cc: Provost Michael T. Brown
Executive Vice President Rachael Nava
Vice President Robin Holmes-Sullivan
Interim Associate Vice President Han Mi Yoon-Wu
Professor Stanton Glantz