

UCLA Office of the Dean of Students

Dear Faculty Member:

As we begin our 2014-15 academic year, I am writing to provide important information about several aspects of student life on campus that are of concern to all of us, as well as to offer strategies for addressing potentially problematic situations. Our students are encouraged to embrace the True Bruin values of Integrity, Excellence, Accountability, Respect, and Service, and to build these values into their everyday lives. Unfortunately, sometimes they do make mistakes. Through this letter, I outline the campus resources that can be helpful to you and, more importantly, I request your support and participation in upholding our UCLA values.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is an essential principle at UCLA. Creating a climate that is conducive to the honest exchange of ideas assists students in their pursuit of quality scholarship. Yet, academic dishonesty continues to be an issue in institutions of higher education everywhere. The Office of the Dean of Students is charged with responding when students are accused of committing a violation of policy. The *UCLA Student Conduct Code* outlines the processes by which allegations of academic misconduct are addressed (http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Code_choice.php).

While enforcement is important, you also play a major role in prevention. The Office of the Dean of Students' website offers a wide range of resources to foster academic integrity, including techniques for preventing, identifying, and responding to academic misconduct (<http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/faculty/>).

Also, if you are not already familiar with Turnitin.com, information about this on-line tool that assists in the detection of plagiarism and, ultimately, in preventing plagiarism, is available on your MyUCLA page (<http://my.ucla.edu>) next to the icons for the Electronic Gradebook and real-time Course Rosters.

Disruptive Behavior

Sometimes, students' behavior in class can interfere with instruction. While most instances of disruptive behavior in the classroom do not rise to the level of *Code* violations, they do require action. Our website offers Tips for Classroom Management that may be helpful in responding to these incidents. In cases of more serious disruptive behavior, you should contact the Office of the Dean of Students or, if you have safety concerns, please contact the UCPD directly.

Sexual Misconduct

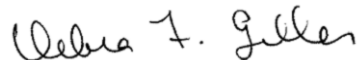
As you know, UCLA is committed to a safe and respectful campus community, free from sexual misconduct. This year, we are conducting a more comprehensive educational campaign to inform all students about university policies related to sexual assault, dating & domestic assault, and stalking; in addition, we want to make sure they are aware of the confidential resources available to students who experience these forms of sexual violence, and of all reporting options.

Please know that we are available to provide training for your departmental faculty and staff on how best respond to and support students who may disclose that they have been victims of sexual misconduct. If you are interested in a special presentation on any of these topics, please feel free to contact the Office of the Dean of Students at (310) 825-3871 or by e-mail at dean@saonet.ucla.edu.

Finally, I want to offer a quick update on organizational changes in the Office of the Dean of Students. Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students Robert Naples, whom many of you may have worked with, retired at the end of the 2013-14 academic year. Dr. Maria Blandizzi has been appointed Interim Dean of Students. Asst. Dean of Students Kevin Dougherty has reduced his time in support of student conduct and has agreed to serve as Interim Director for Fraternity & Sorority Relations for the 2014-15 year. Lindsey Goldstein and Jacques Zalma, both excellent, experienced student conduct professionals, have joined our staff as Assistant Dean of Students. In my role as Executive Director for Community Standards, I continue to provide leadership to the conduct team within the office.

We look forward to continuing to work with and to support you in any way we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra F. Geller".

Debra F. Geller, Ed.D.
Executive Director for Community Standards