March 15, 2018

To: President’s Task Force on Campus Climate  
From: Leslie E. Wong, President  
Subject: Task Force Recommendations

First, I’d like to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for agreeing to join this task force and lead the conversation about campus climate at SF State. As you probably knew before accepting the appointment, this is an extremely complex issue that impacts practically every University campus in the country.

I very much appreciate the sincere engagement of the group, and the thoughtful process you went through during your meetings this past Fall. While it is clear that there are fundamental elements that need to be addressed, namely the composition of any new or reconstituted task force and clarity on the charge to the group, I believe that this task force asked tough questions and generated outcomes upon which we can build. I accept your recommendation to suspend the President’s Task Force on Campus Climate. My Cabinet and I will take the time to explore the conditions that will promote success for such a group in the future, namely the process by which a subsequent committee or task force would be convened, the membership of the group, and the processes by which potential members are identified. In line with your recommendations, we will also take into consideration the mission, purpose and goals you identified as critical to the work of any future task force or committee.

Chancellor White’s statement on Inclusive Excellence which was distributed on January 29th, 2018 provides guidance to CSU campuses as we each develop a framework to address campus climate. The Division of Equity and Community Inclusion, and the Ad Hoc Work Group on Equity and Social Justice Educational Outreach have begun to lay the groundwork for this campus-wide effort.

The SF State Campus Climate Assessment Project being facilitated by Rankin and Associates was launched on February 6th. This comprehensive assessment is an important milestone for our campus. This will be the first such study to be conducted at SF State. The data, information, and recommendations developed through this work will provide clear guidance on the needs of the campus, and how we can best move forward to create a safer, inclusive and respectful learning and working environment.

As I have communicated to the campus community and beyond; we will continue to examine and address serious concerns about anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, bullying and other significant social issues facing our students and the university community. We are confronting these challenges courageously and thoughtfully, recognizing that this is hard work. Evidence of this work can be found and will be updated here: http://vpsaem.sfsu.edu/campus_climate.

Again, thank you for your service to San Francisco State.