November 14, 2012

A. Robert Linscheid, Chair
The California State University Board of Trustees
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your letter offering the Chancellorship of the California State University. I whole heartedly accept your offer to serve our State. I do so because of my deep passion and interest in the mission of the CSU to advance California’s future.

As I reflect on our times, I respectfully request a 10% reduction in the state-funded portion of the salary that you offered. I believe this request is what is best for the California State University - its faculty, staff, students, and leadership.

Despite the passage of Proposition 30, there remain grave economic issues to solve in California and the California State University. Indeed, the success of Proposition 30 was the voice of the voters and taxpayers of California to start to reinvest in education.

I also recognize that Californians expect me to properly steward these resources. Consequently, as I join the faculty, staff and students who have experienced cuts, salary freezes, and increased fees, I too must do my part. This is the basis of my request to reduce my own compensation to contribute to the rebuilding of this great university.

By changing the dialogue on my compensation I hope to send a clear signal to the public-at-large, elected officials, the business community, and families of current and future students that public higher education matters to all of us, and that we each must play a part in the rebuilding effort. Working together we must find ways to innovate, sustain excellence, decrease time to earn degrees, and have degrees that have renewed meaning for tomorrow’s economy and social mobility.

Our time is a transformative – and precarious – moment for the University and the state. By joining together with our faculty, staff and students as we face the challenges and opportunities that lay before us, we will succeed.

To do so will require the relentless pursuit of new relationships with the public and private sector, as well as among all members of the University community. These relationships will reflect the reality of the environment we are in, and create greater opportunities for student, faculty and staff success in the future.

Sincerely,

Timothy P. White