


UC RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA | **Academic Senate**
COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY & EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

April 22, 2016

To: Jose Wudka, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

From: Manuela Martins-Green, Chair 
Committee on Diversity & Equal Opportunity

Re: Campus Review. Campus Five-Year Planning Perspectives

The Senate Committee of Diversity and Equal Opportunity urges the campus administration to seriously consider expanding the faculty resources of the Middle East and Islamic Studies Program. The program has currently only four full-time faculty members and lacks faculty in essential fields such as Political Science, Languages, and History. The principal reason for our urgent request is to provide more faculty mentors for our students of Middle Eastern and Islamic heritage. In recent months these students have experienced unprecedented harassment and discrimination (as revealed, for example, during a campus-wide symposium on Islamophobia on April 11, 2016 that was attended by more than 100 students and faculty); students also continue to experience anxiety because of the recent terror attacks in San Bernardino and a political climate that has encouraged anti-Muslim rhetoric; they are looking for faculty leaders who understand their concerns and can give them feedback. As the number of students of Middle Eastern and Islamic heritage is increasing (as is the number of foreign students from Middle Eastern and other Islamic countries) this is an important issue that will only become more pressing in the future. We also believe that hiring more faculty covering the vast and diverse regions of the Muslim world (ranging from North Africa to South Asia) has the potential of greatly contributing to the faculty diversity of this campus.