Dear Colleagues,

The last couple of days have represented an extraordinary period in our long history as a democracy. I am certain the entire Extension community, regardless of your political affiliation, has been confused and disturbed by the siege on the U.S. Capitol Wednesday, January 6, 2021. All of us have received the email from the Chancellor affirming UCSD’s commitment to civility, equity, diversity, and inclusion. In case you missed it, you can find it below.

Today, Elizabeth Simmons, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, reminded the deans that there are educational offerings on the presidential transition developed by campus faculty and staff available on the website: https://freespeech.ucsd.edu She urged all of us to share this website with each of you so you can take advantage of these resources if interested.

I wish all of you a restful weekend and would like to share my optimism that we will soon be on a more positive and equitable path forward as a nation.

All the best,

Mary Walshok

Attached: January 6, 2021 Statement from the Office of the Chancellor

ALL STUDENTS, ACADEMICS AND STAFF AT UC SAN DIEGO (including UC San Diego Health) Statement on Today’s Violence in Washington, D.C.

UC San Diego strongly condemns the violence perpetrated by a mob of rioters who today breached security at the U.S. Capitol. By interfering with the work of our elected lawmakers, the perpetrators of these actions have undermined our very democracy.
I am also disturbed by what appears to be a stark contrast in the response by law enforcement when compared to actions toward Black and other minoritized communities who have gathered in recent months to exercise their constitutional right to protest systemic racism and injustice. While peaceful protests are a mainstay of our country's history, there is no place in a democracy for what transpired today. Such lawless behavior is unacceptable and weakens the core of our democracy. Every leader has a responsibility to oppose these events and to discourage such behavior.

I am saddened by today’s unlawful actions, but I am confident that our country can and will come together to meet the challenges of our times. The United States is founded on a set of shared principles that include a commitment to the rule of law. The founders created a system that provides avenues and channels to peacefully settle disputes and disagreements.

As Tritons, these events reinforce the need to advance and practice civil engagement and also to promote diversity, equity and inclusion as we help build communities and strengthen civic life. In these actions, we demonstrate our fundamental commitment to democracy and promote a healing process for all those who consider America their home.

Pradeep K. Khosla
Chancellor