

February 8, 2017 email from Carol Christ to the CNR community

Re: Oxford Tract and the Housing Master Plan Task Force Draft Report

Dear College of Natural Resources community members,

Dean Keith Gilless has shared with me your concerns regarding the future of the research facilities at the Oxford Tract, which has been identified in the [Housing Master Plan Task Force Draft Report](#) as a site with high potential for development of much-needed student housing. We understand the importance of these facilities to the scholarly and instructional mission of the College and are committed to collaborating with you to ensure that the activities at the Oxford Tract are accommodated with appropriate space and facilities.

Having received a report from Dean Gilless in September 2016 on the impacts of a possible re-purposing of the Oxford Tract, we recognize that some of the activities there must remain on campus while others could be relocated to the Gill Tract. We would like to assure you that the monetary costs of relocating activities from the Oxford Tract would be fully borne by the campus.

I would be happy to meet with the CNR community to address your concerns in person, and have asked my assistant to schedule this meeting for as soon as possible. I also plan to appoint a program committee co-chaired by Tsu-Jae King Liu (Vice Provost for Academic and Space Planning) and Dean Gilless, which will be charged to consider in further detail the activities at the Oxford Tract and make recommendations for their relocation. If you are interested to serve on this committee, please reach out to Vice Provost Liu and/or Dean Gilless.

I understand that the development of the Oxford Tract represents significant change to certain research and instructional programs of the College and I deeply appreciate your willingness to engage in these preliminary discussions as we seek to find creative solutions in support of our campus mission.

Kindest regards,

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*Carol T. Christ*  
*Interim Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost (EVCP)*  
*University of California at Berkeley*  
*200 California Hall, MC 1500*  
*Berkeley, CA 94720*  
[510-642-1961](tel:510-642-1961)