Dear DSP Students,

Thank you to those of you who attended the meeting with our Vice Chancellor of Equity and inclusion yesterday. For those who were unable to attend, I am writing to share the following important information:

On Monday, August 8, 2016, UC Berkeley was notified by the State Department of Rehabilitation, DOR, about drastic financial changes to the present contract with our campus. These changes included new guidelines, which require the campus to fully fund the Workability IV, WAIV, program services in its current form to maintain compliance with the state’s requirements.

Workability IV (WAIV) is a very restrictive workforce development program that is primarily funded by a state contract with the DOR. The current DOR grant funds four full time staff and a percentage of the salaries of two DSP administrators. Other department staff also contributes a small percentage of their time to the grant in kind.

This grant served 60 students with four full time staff during the 2015-16 school year. Only students who are DOR clients are eligible for WAIV services and the contract narrowly prescribes the types of services and length of time services can be provided. In order to continue this program under the current requirements, UC Berkeley would have to immediately commit more than $200,000 of new funds to this program.

Due to the abrupt and unanticipated changes in the DOR contract along with the effective date of September 1, 2016, the campus will no longer be able to provide the WAIV program services. Services will be available to current WAIV students until October 3, 2016. Other campuses will be discontinuing the grant program as well. We will be working with all current WAIV students, with student groups and student leadership to talk about what a career services model for all students with disabilities should include at Cal moving forward.
The DSP Director, Karen Nielson, and her staff have set up open office hours for current WAIV students to receive any consultation, facilitation and or transition support needed as the campus develops and implements a new model of service and provide guidance during this transition period.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Disabled Services Program Office at knielson@berkeley.edu