October 9, 2012

Deans, Directors, Department Chairs and Administrative Officers:

I am pleased to announce the designation of Kent Wada in the newly formed role of Chief Privacy Officer (CPO) for UCLA. In an age of proliferating information and interaction both digitally and in person, addressing privacy in its different forms has become important to the mission of the University. Privacy is critical to our values of academic and intellectual freedom and to the well being of our culture and community, even as the University's compliance obligations with privacy legislation and commitment to transparency in the administration of a public institution escalate.

In connection with this responsibility, Kent's current role is formally extended to Director of Strategic IT Policy and CPO. The CPO is the point of contact on matters concerning the privacy of individuals and of their information, and will be working closely with the many campus offices that have compliance or operational responsibilities for privacy; and with the Chief Compliance Officer of the UCLA Health System and the David Geffen School of Medicine. The UCLA Board on Privacy and Data Protection, whose chair is jointly appointed by the Academic Senate and the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, will provide oversight to the CPO role in guiding and balancing the University's values with its legal, policy, administrative, security and privacy responsibilities.

As the Director of Strategic IT Policy and CPO, Kent will continue to help craft the campus-wide agenda for technology and privacy policy issues of strategic importance to the institution, and collaborate broadly across the campus and with its IT governance groups, across the UC system and nationally. Kent was involved with founding the UCLA Board on Privacy and Data Protection in 2005, and currently chairs the working group of the UC Privacy and Information Security Initiative charged by UC President Yudof to recommend a framework for considering privacy and information security issues within the University.

Please join me in welcoming Kent into this new role. We look forward to having an experienced, thoughtful leader advocating and addressing the pressing privacy and data protection issues facing our institution.

Sincerely,

Jim Davis
Vice Provost, Information Technology