TO: Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
FROM: Provost, Office of Academic Affairs
SUBJECT: CSU East Bay Teacher-Scholar Program

ACTION REQUESTED:
That ExCom refer to the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) and the Committee on Research (CR) this request to develop a proposal for a Teacher-Scholar Program that would begin hopefully no later than the fall 2018.

This program should provide three units per semester of assigned-time for full-time, tenure-track faculty for a three-year period to pursue a clearly defined program of scholarship, research, or creative activities related to their curricular and co-curricular interests. The program must include an application and review process that requires annual evidence of progress towards clearly stated research, scholarly, or creative goals that align with our Institutional Learning Outcomes.

I request that FAC and CR form a joint task force to gather information, survey faculty needs, and develop a proposal to be recommended by both committees and sent through the normal Senate approval process. I would be happy to provide guidance throughout this process.

BACKGROUND:
Although CSU East Bay is primarily a learning institution, our faculty are also researchers, scholars, and creative artists, and I continue to be impressed by their ability to balance the demands of instructional, professional, and service expectations. As we begin the challenging task of converting our quarter campus to a semester campus, I am encouraging faculty to take advantage of this unique opportunity to transform curriculum and pedagogy. At the same time, I have heard faculty concerns about workload and recognize that teaching responsibilities on the semester system may be equally if not more challenging than on the quarter system. I have concluded that not only is conversion an opportunity for transforming curriculum but also an opportunity for transforming faculty workload and how we approach scholarship.

In my opinion, if given the opportunity that assigned-time for an extended period of time would provide, our faculty have the potential to become model teacher-scholars who engage our uniquely diverse student population both within the classroom and through their research, scholarship, and creative projects. Thus, I plan to fund and maintain up to 50 faculty in the teacher-scholar program.