FACING THE FUTURE
A Berkeley Faculty Association Forum on the challenges facing the next UC President with

UC Board of Regents Chair John A. Pérez
and Chancellor Carol Christ

IN CONVERSATION WITH

Professors Wendy Brown and James Vernon

5-7p.m. on 5th February, 2020 in The Social Science Matrix, 820 Barrows Hall

Professors Brown and Vernon will engage Regent John Pérez and Chancellor Christ with pressing questions on the mission, the funding and the governance of the University of California, and of Berkeley in particular, setting the scene for questions from, and discussion with the audience. This is a unique opportunity for the campus community to reflect on and examine our future.

John A. Pérez, Speaker Emeritus of the California Assembly, was appointed to the University of California Board of Regents in November 2014. In May 2019, his colleagues on the Board of Regents elected him to serve as Chair. As Chair, he is committed to building on the system’s reputation for excellence while improving outcomes for students, applicants, faculty, and employees at all 10 UC campuses. Regent Pérez’s commitment to higher education goes back to his days as a student and activist at UC Berkeley, and carried forward into his service in the California Legislature. In 2008 John was elected to the California Assembly, representing downtown Los Angeles and surrounding communities. In 2010, he was elected Speaker of the Assembly, making him the first openly LGBTQ person to serve in that position. He is the author of landmark legislation creating California’s Middle-Class Scholarship and first-in-the-nation Health Benefits Exchange under the Affordable Care Act.

Carol Christ has become familiar to us all. She is the 11th Chancellor and the former Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost of the University of California, Berkeley. She previously served as President of Smith College from 2002 to 2013, and before that was a professor of English and an administrator at Berkeley for more than three decades. Chancellor Christ is an advocate for quality, accessible public higher education, a proponent of the value of a broad education in the liberal arts and sciences, and a champion of women’s issues and diversity on college campuses. Since her return to Berkeley, she has worked to foster community and improve the campus climate, strengthen Berkeley's financial position, address the campus' housing shortage, and celebrate the institution's longstanding commitment to free speech.

Wendy Brown is professor of political science and James Vernon is professor of history. As leading members of the BFA and long-standing Berkeley faculty both have written extensively on the challenges facing the public university.