Dear Professor Gorman,

The graduate students and postdocs have come together to voice some concerns about the hiring plan that was recently submitted to Dean Padden.

The climate crisis was highlighted as a key departmental priority at the annual retreat. At the first faculty meeting of the year, where graduate representatives were present, there was mention of climate change being a priority for hiring from the Social Sciences Division. However, we recently learned from Dean Padden that, unlike other departments in the division, ours decided against the opportunity to request a dedicated climate change psychologist (even amongst approx. 7 other hiring requests in our plan).

We write today to communicate our expectations and hopes about how the department upholds its commitment to the climate crisis going forward. We request that you prioritize the hiring of a climate crisis psychologist in upcoming faculty searches in order to fill the following urgent departmental needs:

1. **Research:** Ten graduate students recently took a seminar on the psychology of the climate crisis. We entered that class with wildly different views on the topic, and we all left with a wealth of new knowledge and skills applicable to our own research — This was a learning opportunity that all our peers should get to experience. The climate crisis is essentially an issue of human behavior change and therefore, critical to the study of psychology. It is a vastly intersectional applied field, covering broad topics such as belief, motivation, risk perception, group dynamics, wellbeing, moral judgments, big data, science communication, and behavior change to name just a few — topics that are relevant to nearly all psychology scholars.

2. **Teaching:** UCSD has formally recognized “the need for a drastic societal shift to combat the growing threat of climate change.” (https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/university-california-declares-climate-emergency). Over 1000 undergraduates at 7th College will be taking climate crisis classes as early as Fall 2020, and this is increasingly being scaled up by other provosts. We sincerely hope that the Psychology department, being well-positioned to teach this topic to a growing base of undergrads, ensures that a climate expert is hired as soon as possible to meet this demand.
3. **Job Prospects**: Recent reports suggest that knowledge of the climate crisis will be increasingly emphasized in the job market. Faculty members who can teach classes on this topic and supervise related research projects would greatly help position us for success on the job market. (https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20170705-how-climate-change-could-transform-the-work-force)

We have gathered 40 signatures demonstrating widespread support of this petition amongst the graduate students, and are deeply committed to this cause. We appreciate being in a graduate program that values our voice, and hope that you continue demonstrating this commitment to the student body, the Social Sciences Division, and UCSD by acting on these requests.

Sincerely,
The undersigned UCSD Psychology Dept graduate students and postdocs

1. Anna Castiglione
2. Debra Lindsay
3. Stefanie Holden
4. Kelsey Sundby
5. Tanushree Agrawal
6. Hayden Schill
7. Sumitash Jana
8. Ethan Hurwitz
9. Jamie Amemiya
10. Ricci Hannah
11. Andrew Marin
12. Xinqi (Evie) Guo
13. Zoe Tauxe
14. Madeline Pantoni
15. Zeve Marcus
16. Jonas Lau
17. Alexandra Rett
18. Catherine Tallman
19. Srihita Rudraraju
20. Janna Wennberg
21. Yueyi (Sherry) Jiang

...(continued on next pg)
22. Mohan Gupta
23. Adam Morgan
24. Pria Daniel
25. Minju Kim
26. Elizabeth Lapidow
27. Holly Huey
28. Erik Brockbank
29. Rose Schneider
30. Taylor Bondi
31. Haleh Yazdi
32. Anne Yilmaz
33. Andy Arnold
34. Elisabeth Marchand
35. So Eun Ahn
36. Thomas McCauley
37. Sunyoung Park
38. Tim Sainburg
39. Katie Van Alstyne
40. Sohee Ahn