

October 22, 2020

Shane White, Chair  
Academic Senate

**Re: Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force Report**

Dear Chair White,

At its meeting on October 14, 2020, the Faculty Welfare Committee reviewed and discussed the Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force Report. Committee members and offered the following comments.

The State Legislature would see online education as an opportunity to transform UC and educate more students. This would lead to irreversible damage to quality of education. Members expressed concerns over the degradation of the whole experience, and how would UC compete with a community college, especially if delivering online instruction. Members agreed that the experience of being on campus (Option 1) is essential to a full educational experience and not willing to accept a fully online experience. Online learning and interactions are less conducive to the development of knowledge. There is a significant probability of ending up with a two-tier system. A hybrid option would be preferable, offering a mixed in-person and online environment degree.

Members strongly opposed to making a decision on online undergraduate degrees when in a state of peril. Overall, quality concerns outweigh potential benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. If you have any questions, please contact us via the Faculty Welfare Committee's interim analyst, Elizabeth Feller, at [efeller@senate.ucla.edu](mailto:efeller@senate.ucla.edu).

Sincerely,

Huiying Li, Chair  
Faculty Welfare Committee

cc: Jody Kreiman, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Academic Senate  
Michael Meranze, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate  
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate  
Elizabeth Feller, Interim Analyst, Faculty Welfare Committee  
Faculty Welfare Committee Members