UCLA Academic Senate
Faculty Welfare Committee

January 26, 2021

Shane White, Chair
Academic Senate

Re: UCLA IT Assessment

Dear Chair White,

At its meeting on January 19, 2021, the Faculty Welfare Committee discussed the UCLA IT Assessment. Committee members offered the following comments.

The report sheds light on certain aspects about the current IT landscape at UCLA and pushes for centralization. Members noted that UCLA may gain benefits of scope by centralizing IT services, however, the implementation may prove to be challenging. Members indicated that they would oppose to a one-size-fits-all solution. There are variable needs across disciplines and fragmentation is not necessarily a terrible thing. Certain types of work do not fit into a centralized model, and people who understand the nuances of departments are necessary. A few members with experience in the School of Medicine pointed out that the quality of IP support may decrease after centralization. Moreover, members do not have confidence in the university's ability to centralize services, as exemplified by UC Path.

Additionally, members expressed that they did not understand the rationale for this assessment, since it describes the heterogeneity of the many IT offerings. Furthermore, some of its proposed consolidations are opaque. Members would like to know who produced the document and if it was a consulting company, whether the company has a track record in assessing institutions like UCLA.

If you have any questions, please contact us via the Faculty Welfare Committee's interim analyst, Elizabeth Feller, at 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
Members of the Faculty Welfare Committee