April 7, 2021

To: Shane White, Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

From: Megan McEvoy, Chair, Undergraduate Council

Re: Moreno Recommendations Implementation Committee (MRIC) Report

At its meeting on April 2, 2021, the Undergraduate Council discussed the Moreno Recommendations Implementation Committee (MRIC) Report.

One suggestion is to establish a formal, annual meeting with the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) as part of the Senate’s program review process, which is conducted by the Council in coordination with the Graduate Council. For several years now, the Vice Chancellor of EDI attends each program review site visit’s exit meeting. An annual meeting could serve the purpose of understanding EDI trends across all program reviews conducted that year, as well as aligning on next steps for reviews that have not yet closed due to climate concerns. This suggestion responds to the MRIC Report’s recommendation to “Improve collaboration, communication and coordination between campus equity, diversity, and inclusion offices, programs and initiatives” (p. 7).

Members noted that the Senate’s program review can identify which academic units are most in need of support to improve EDI and diversity; however, the Office of EDI currently does not have the capacity to help academic units design and administer climate assessments. Given the MRIC Report’s recommendation to “Assess on a regular basis campus EDI to determine status, progress and challenges” (p. 7), it is essential for the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost to devote more resources to campus units—including the Office of EDI—to proactively support academic units to assess status and challenges with EDI, and take steps to improve climate and EDI.

Thank you for the opportunity to opine. If you have any questions, please contact us via the Undergraduate Council’s analyst, Aileen Liu, at aliu@senate.ucla.edu.

cc: April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
    Jody Kreiman, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Academic Senate
    Aileen Liu, Committee Analyst, Undergraduate Council
    Michael Meranze, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate