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April 8, 2021

To: Shane White, Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

From: Megan McEvoy, Chair, Undergraduate Council

Re: 2020-2025 Five-Year Planning Perspectives Report

The 2020-2025 Five-Year Planning Perspectives Report was circulated to Undergraduate Council members for independent review. Members offered the following comments for consideration.

Much of the report is devoted to trends in the graduate programs, which is unsurprising given the large number of actions related to self-supporting graduate and professional degree programs (SSGPDs). It would be helpful for the report to include a specific section about trends in the undergraduate programs. The report notes that “the number of proposed new undergraduate programs [has] remained steady” (p. 1), and that “discontinuances have historically clustered around undergraduate programs” (p. 18). It would be helpful to understand how to interpret these trends in undergraduate programs in light of the fact that most actions are around graduate programs and SSGPDs.

One concern was that campuses may be shifting their attention too much from proposing new and innovative undergraduate programs, a consequence of the pressure on the bottom line to propose money-making professional master’s programs. Campuses must find a balance between proposing programs that are potentially revenue-generating and financially beneficial *because* they are potentially revenue-generating, and proposing programs that are most needed and finding ways to fund them.

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