June 1, 2021

Michael T. Brown
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of California

Re: 2020-2025 Five-Year Planning Perspectives Report

Dear Provost/EVP Brown,

The Divisional Executive Board, councils, and committees appreciate the opportunity to review the 2020-2025 Five-Year Planning Perspectives report.

After review of the attached responses from divisional committees and councils, Executive Board members endorsed the questions and concerns raised about the increasing prominence of self-supporting graduate programs.

Concerns included the necessity for increased resources to enable robust review of the increasing number of self-supporting graduate programs, the lack of attention to PhD and undergraduate programs relative to master’s programs, the possibility of harm to state-supported programs, the resources needed to support SSDPs and their students, the instructional quality of asynchronous online programs, the need for appropriate taxation of SSDPs, and the potential for reputational damage.

Members encouraged strategic systemwide analysis and dialogue about the risks and rewards for the university, and particularly for academic excellence, with the current emphasis on self-supporting graduate programs.

Sincerely,

Shane White
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: Hilary Baxter, Executive Director, UC Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Mary Gauvain, Chair, UC Academic Senate
Jody Kreiman, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Michael Meranze, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
Chris Procello, Academic Planning & Policy Analyst, UCOP