June 8, 2021

Emily Carter
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Re: 2020-2025 Five-Year Planning Perspectives Report

Dear EVCP Carter,

The Academic Senate appreciated the opportunity to respond to the UCOP 2020-2025 Five-Year Planning Perspectives report. At its meeting on April 29, 2021, the Executive Board reviewed the feedback from divisional committees and councils (attached). Executive Board members endorsed their 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 SSGPDPs, 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 SSGPDPs and their students, the instructional quality of asynchronous online programs, the need for appropriate taxation of SSGPDPs, and the potential for reputational damage. These concerns underscored the necessity for maintaining or strengthening robust program review at both campus and systemwide levels.

Members encouraged Provost/EVP Brown to engage in 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.

From UCLA Administration, members would appreciate a better understanding of how campus administrative leaders plan to address the concerns listed above. We look forward to receiving a response to these issues.

Sincerely,

Shane White
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Cc:  April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Gregg Goldman, Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer
Jody Kreiman, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Michael Meranze, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the EVCP
Jeff Roth, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Planning and Budget