

UCLA Academic Senate

May 27, 2022

Nurit Katz
Chief Sustainability Officer and Executive Officer, Facilities Management

Re: Review of Revised UCLA Sustainability Master Plan, Curricula & Research Section

Dear CSO Katz,

At its meeting on April 14, 2022, the Executive Board reviewed the revised UCLA Sustainability Master Plan (the Plan). Members appreciated the opportunity to review the revised Plan and the intent to formulate a coordinated response to promote sustainability at UCLA. Overall, there was widespread support expressed on the Executive Board for sustainability initiatives. For this discussion, we focused more narrowly on the Plan's section 3, "Curricula + Research."

We recognize that we were unable to respond before the Plan was distributed, and we apologize for that. Still, we offer this response in the spirit of looking forward to its implementation.

In general, Executive Board members were enthusiastic about growing curricular and research attention at UCLA to sustainability. However, members questioned the advisability of efforts contemplated by the Plan to address tenure, promotion, curriculum, and accreditation.

Members requested the removal (or, now that it is published, the rethinking), of section 03.2 on tenure. The Executive Board concluded that the Plan should not make recommendations about what should be rewarded in the context of tenure and promotion.

Members advised further consultation with relevant academic units about the curricular elements and accreditation. It was unclear who would determine what constituted sustainability in course content. While endorsing the idea that we ought to assess how sustainability is incorporated into instruction and research, members remained unclear about what sustainability would look like in a coordinated curricular initiative across the campus, and how this would support or undermine existing curricular efforts in academic units.

We appreciate the opportunity to advise your office on this crucial issue. We wholeheartedly share your commitment to sustainability and hope that the commentary will assist you in concretely advancing campus sustainability.

Sincerely,

Jessica Cattelino
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: Shane White, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate