

October 25, 2022

To: Jessica Cattelino, Chair, Academic Senate

From: Kathleen Bawn, Chair, Undergraduate Council

Re: Systemwide Senate Review of Entry Level Writing Requirement Task Force Report and Recommendations

At its meeting on October 21, 2022, the Undergraduate Council discussed the report of the Academic Council Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Task Force.

Members were generally in agreement with the report's recommendations related to updating the UC Entry Level Writing Requirement. Members were supportive of the overall recommendation to make placement processes more rational and equitable, and less reliant upon standardized placement tests of dubious accuracy.

Clarification was sought on some of the recommended revisions to Senate Regulation 636, particularly point A (from "...respond adequately to written material typical of reading assignments in freshman courses," to "...respond adequately in writing to material typically found in first-year writing courses"). Some members noted that the proposed change is substantive and seems to lower the bar for entry-level writing in a way not justified by other concerns regarding equity raised elsewhere in the report.

Thank you for the opportunity to opine. If you have any questions, please contact me via the Undergraduate Council analyst, Julia Nelsen, at jnelsen@senate.ucla.edu.

CC: April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Anne Warlaumont, Vice Chair, Undergraduate Council
Andrea Kasko, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
Julia Nelsen, Committee Analyst
Shane White, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate