

June 20, 2023

Allison Baird-James
Interim Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer (IVC & CFO)

Michael Beck
Administrative Vice Chancellor (AVC)

Darnell Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost (EVCP)

Roger Wakimoto
Vice Chancellor for Research and Creative Activities (VCRCA)

Re: Campus Procurement Issues

Dear IVC & CFO Baird-James, AVC Beck, EVCP Hunt, and VCRCA Wakimoto,

At the June 8, 2023, meeting of the Executive Board, members discussed the attached Council on Planning and Budget's (CPB) letter regarding campus procurement issues. Members thanked CPB for raising this important issue. Further, members approved a motion to endorse and forward CPB's recommendations to the relevant Administrative leadership.

On behalf of Senate faculty, and while recognizing that some efforts are underway, we ask for immediate action. As was evident during the EVCP's listen tour earlier this academic year, every town hall included faculty voicing recurring concerns about the negative consequences of procurement and related issues on research, teaching, and service. For example, these ongoing issues have harmed community-engaged research and UCLA's relationships with historically marginalized communities. Additionally, faculty increasingly pocket academic expenses rather than seeking reimbursement, and this disproportionately burdens those faculty who earn less.

Members suggest focusing on the faculty user experience and considering the actual risks of delays or denials based on campus compliance. Of course, UCLA must comply with the law, but it seems that some delays and denials do not reflect the law but rather a well-meaning but heavily bureaucratic effort to neutralize any possible risk of liability. It is time for the pendulum to swing back toward supporting research, teaching, and service.

Executive Board requests a response by Friday, October 27, 2023, that provides concrete steps towards improvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jessica R. Cattelino".

Jessica Cattelino
Chair
UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Elizabeth Feller, Associate Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Andrea Kasko, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Andrew Leuchter, Chair, Council on Planning and Budget
Emily Rose, Assistant Provost & Chief of Staff to the EVCP
Shane White, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate