

October 24, 2023

To: Andrea Kasko, Chair
Academic Senate

Re: **Final Report-Joint Task Force on the Academic Mission of UCLA Campus Expansion**

Dear Chair Kasko,

At its meeting on October 3, 2023, the Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC) discussed the Academic Senate's request for the Final Report-Joint Task Force on the Academic Mission of UCLA Campus Expansion. Members offered the following comments.

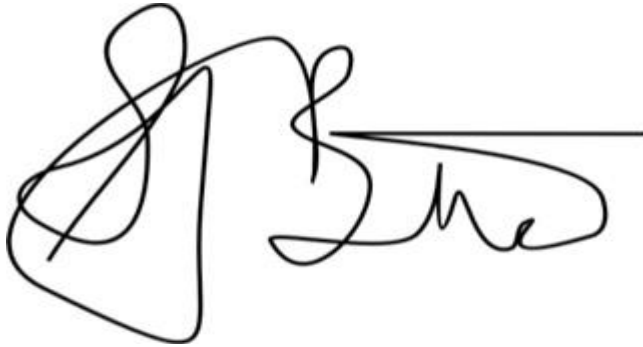
FWC members noted that Marymount California University was purchased without input from the faculty or any UCLA community stakeholders. Eighty percent of the faculty surveyed were either not interested or only modestly interested in teaching on this campus (Appendix IV). There are many challenges with integrating this campus into UCLA, including its location in Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV), up to a 1.5-hour one-way drive from UCLA's Westwood campus. This distance makes travel between Westwood and RPV campuses utterly impractical daily. Second, there are no existing research facilities, and third, the residential facilities are in poor condition, such that they do not have the necessary amenities to support our student body.

There was modest enthusiasm for converting this campus into a state-of-the-art facility to study sustainability/environmental concerns significantly as they impact the LA basin/ocean or a center for low-cost conferences, retreats, or even vacations for the entire campus community. There was no enthusiasm for the other concepts, including using the campus for a Spanish/indigenous immersion program.

However, overall, FWC members were very skeptical of the entire project. It will take a massive investment of financial resources to transform this campus into a research facility or conference center. These resources would be better deployed supporting ongoing initiatives at UCLA, such as rethinking the future of graduate education. Moreover, FWC members found no demonstrated need for any concepts suggested to the Joint Task Force or, indeed, a need for the whole campus. We thus consider it a mistake to have bought the campus in the first place and urge leadership to sell the campus and cut our losses now.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our recommendation. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at butlersj@ucla.edu or via the Committee analyst, Renee Rouzan-Kay, at rrouzankay@senate.ucla.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Butler', with a large loop at the beginning and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Samantha Butler, Chair
Faculty Welfare Committee

cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/ Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Renee Rouzan-Kay, Senior Policy Analyst, Faculty Welfare Committee
Members of the Faculty Welfare Committee