

October 26, 2023

To: Andrea Kasko, Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

From: Catherine Sugar, Chair, Undergraduate Council

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

At its meeting on October 20, 2023, the Undergraduate Council reviewed and discussed the report from the Joint Task Force on the Academic Mission of UCLA Campus Expansion.

Members appreciated the information presented in the report, while observing the low response rate to the survey among faculty. Members noted that the South Bay campus location and lack of public transportation will pose significant access barriers for commuting students, faculty, and staff. Several members also pointed out a disconnect in integrating the South Bay buildings and classrooms with UCLA's existing academic activities, underscoring fit-for-use challenges that may be hard to overcome.

While acknowledging such constraints, some members also emphasized the site's potential to enable innovative educational experiences and curricular approaches that differ from the comprehensive 4-year residential model of the Westwood campus. Some members suggested leveraging the South Bay campus for shorter-term research-based programs, e.g., for graduate students writing dissertations in residence or for advanced undergraduates working on senior thesis projects following the completion of general education requirements (along the lines of the College of Creative Studies at UC Santa Barbara). Members underscored questions of equity and accessibility for any future academic programming at the UCLA South Bay campus.

The Undergraduate Council appreciates the opportunity to comment on the report and welcomes continued discussions on academic planning for UCLA campus expansion. If you have any questions, please contact me via the Undergraduate Council analyst, Julia Nelsen, at jnelsen@senate.ucla.edu.

cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Jessica Cattellino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Julia Nelsen, Principal Policy Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate