January 5, 2024

Darnell Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Re: Campus PreK-12 Affordability and Accessibility for Faculty

Dear Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Hunt,

At the December 7, 2023, meeting of the Executive Board, members reviewed your October 24, 2023, response to the Executive Board’s letter dated June 23, 2023, about the Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC) Report and Addendum on campus Pre-K-12 affordability and accessibility for faculty, and the FWC response to your letter, dated November 30, 2023.

Members voted in favor of a motion to convey the attached FWC letter to you, urge you to meet with Executive Board and FWC members, and to subsequently ensure a substantive response from you to the questions posed by FWC.

Members concurred with FWC that the essential questions are: What is the purpose of the Geffen Academy and Lab School? How do they advance the academic university mission of research, teaching, and service?

Members offered the following additional observations and questions that followed the emphasis of the FWC letter:

- It appears there has been a substantial shift in the purpose and mission of both schools. When, how and why did their missions change?
- What resources—monetary, space, staffing, and time—are being drawn from UCLA fund sources to support these two schools? To what degree are the revenue sources of the schools derived from tuition and fundraising? To what degree are the two schools “self-supporting?” What were the reasons for ending the subsidy for faculty and staff that used to exist for the Lab School?
- Members noted that the Academic Senate opposed the transfer of the reporting line of the Superintendent of Schools from Administration to a School dean.
- Regarding the issue of Senate authority raised in your response, if the Geffen Academy was established to address faculty retention needs, then it is clearly within the purview of FWC. If the Geffen Academy’s contribution to the academic mission is related to teaching and learning then it would fall under the curricular authority of the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils. (Notably, FWC has not found undergraduate or graduate courses associated with the Geffen Academy or Lab School or recent publications based on projects at the Lab School.)

The Executive Board looks forward to your continued engagement on these issues.
Sincerely,

Andrea Kasko
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc:  Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
     Samantha Butler, Faculty Welfare Committee Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
     Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
     April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
     Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the EVCP, UCLA
     Renee Rouzan-Kay, Senior Policy Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate