

January 24, 2024

To: Andrea Kasko
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

From: Aaron Meyer
Chair, Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee

Re: **UCLA Holistic Response to the Climate Crisis**

Dear Chair Kasko and the Executive Board,

At the December 11, 2023 meeting of the Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee (CRCC) of the Executive Board, members discussed the role of the CRCC and several pertinent activities on campus. Members encouraged the Administration to prioritize the reduction of carbon emissions in the implementation of its strategic plan as well as the multiple campus expansion projects underway. Members also wished to emphasize to the Administration and Faculty that UCLA's impact on the climate crisis extends beyond campus infrastructure and that a broader approach to decarbonization is critical.

Members recommended that UCLA should think about both the strategic plan and campus expansion projects in relation to reducing carbon emissions. Through the UCLA Strategic Plan, the university can incorporate the climate in its decision making. UCLA will then be a model for the community on climate issues, which can put pressure on regional and state entities that have a bigger climate impact. Members noted that the campus carbon footprint is affected by the commute to the South Bay campus and DTLA Trust Building. CRCC members affirmed that these facilities should be as carbon neutral as possible.

While current decarbonization investments, such as the UCLA Decarbonization Study, are important and necessary activities, members urged that the impact of UCLA's educational, research, and outreach missions have the potential for much larger impacts on the climate crisis. Members discussed the importance of the campus taking a holistic, proactive response to the climate crisis that may serve as a model for other UCs and beyond. Members highlighted that the UCLA Decarbonization Study is limited to Scope 1 emissions when a triple bottom line framework, considering social and economic factors, would be more comprehensive and impactful. Finally, UCLA can respond to the climate crisis through the education of its students and engagement with its local and global communities. More proactive incorporation of climate education into the undergraduate curriculum may include specific Fiat Lux courses or even a Climate Crisis/Sustainability course requirement. Members expressed interest in further defining these broader potential impacts on decarbonization in future meetings.

Cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate

Charlotte Rose, Administrative Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate
Members of the Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee