January 26, 2024

Andrea M. Kasko, Chair, Academic Senate
Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
Jessica R. Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate

Re: EVCP Response to Academic Senate’s Future of Instruction Task Force Report

Dear Academic Senate Leadership,

Thank you for sharing the report of the Future of Instruction Task Force. This report raises so many of the essential -- and in some cases existential -- issues facing UCLA, the UC system and all institutions of higher education in this post-pandemic age. I greatly appreciate the thoughtful recommendations emerging from this report.

The senior leadership team and I are driven, in our leadership of this campus, by the very principles outlined in the report and embodied in its recommendations: centering the academic mission, placing research and scholarship at the heart of undergraduate instruction, enabling experimentation from below and addressing issues of inclusive excellence.

Much of the work we have undertaken in recent months is reflective of our shared principles about the future of instruction. Here are just a few of the reports and activities that relate most closely to these shared principles:

- Report from the Joint Task Force on the Future of Graduate Student Support
- Accessibility and Instruction Working Group Report
- Goal IV of UCLA’s Strategic Plan: Elevate How We Teach
  - This goal encompasses the creation of UCLA’s Teaching and Learning Center, a result of many historical senate reports as well as the ATLAS report.
- The forthcoming report from the Joint Task Force on Faculty Rebuilding and Renewal
- The UC Systemwide Congress on Graduate Education
- Post-Congress Workshop: Practical Approaches to Undergraduate Education (for which I will be providing concluding remarks)
The details of implementing our best ideas are complex and require multifaceted approaches. Implementation also often requires immense resources, which are increasingly scarce. To the best of our abilities, we will aspire to implement these recommendations, in partnership with you.

Sincerely,

Darnell M. Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

cc:  Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost