

February 21, 2024

To: Andrea Kasko, Chair
UCLA Academic Senate

Re: UCLA Report of the Joint Task Force on the Future of Graduate Programs and Graduate Student Support

At its meeting on January 24, 2024, the Committee on International Education (CIE) discussed the UCLA Report of the Joint Task Force on the Future of Graduate Programs and Graduate Student Support. Looking at the report through the lens of international education, it is difficult to make any clear statements or propose any solutions when international students are not mentioned with any depth in the report.

Committee members expressed a great concern that the data presented does not clearly identify how the issues presented will directly impact the admission and enrollment of international students. Across Graduate Programs, difficult decisions are often required when determining whether the cost of an international student is a challenge that programs are willing to embrace. As a result, there is a decline in the recruitment of international students and a large effect on the employment of international students as teaching and research assistants. Often when decisions are made for graduate students, there are logistical matters which greatly affect international students and create further challenges for visa applications. Further, these decisions are not clearly addressed and communicated to international students or the affected offices, such as the UCLA Dashew Center.

As UCLA continues to develop as a “global university”, the opportunities provided to graduate students and more specifically international students should be prioritized.

The committee appreciates the opportunity to review this report, and look forward to more data being made available in the near future. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (MGiovannini@mednet.ucla.edu) or Academic Senate Policy Analyst, Lilia Valdez (lvaldez@senate.ucla.edu).

Sincerely,

Marco Giovannini, Chair
Committee on International Education

cc: Kathy Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate

Lilia Valdez, Senior Policy Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate
Members of the Committee on International Education