March 15, 2024

Darnell Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Re: Future of Graduate Programs and Graduate Student Support Joint Task Force (FGPGSS JTF) Final Report

Dear Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Hunt,

At the February 29, 2024, meeting of the Executive Board (EB), members reviewed the Future of Graduate Programs and Graduate Student Support Joint Task Force (FGPGSS JTF) Final Report and the feedback of divisional Academic Senate committees and councils.

Members voted unanimously in favor of a motion to thank the FGPGSS JTF for a thorough report that capturing where we are at the moment, to elevate concerns including those in the attached College Faculty Executive Committee letter and the Legislative Assembly’s Post-Strike Concerns and Budget Cuts Statement from the Spring 2023, and to indicate EB is unable to endorse the report due to these on-going concerns.

Members emphasized the need for Administration to make hard choices that will prioritize graduate education within the context of the university mission of research, teaching and service. In light of the divisional Senate letters, members strongly called on Administration to manage the budget shortfalls in order to make tough decisions that reflect Academic Senate advisement.

Members welcome a response that summarizes when and how you and your team will address the recommendations and determine short and long-term implementation goals and timelines.

The Academic Senate appreciates the opportunity to advise on this important joint report about the future of graduate student education and funding.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kasko
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
    James Bisley, 2022-2023 Chair, Graduate Council, UCLA Academic Senate
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Susan Ettner, Dean of Graduate Education, UCLA
Julia Nelsen, Principal Policy Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate
Adriana Rosalez, Administrative Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate
Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the EVCP, UCLA
Catherine Sugar, 2023-24 Chair, Graduate Council, UCLA Academic Senate