March 21, 2024

To: Andrea Kasko, Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

From: Brooke Scelza, Chair, Graduate Council

Re: Accessibility and Instruction Working Group Report

Graduate Council members independently reviewed the Accessibility and Instruction Working Group Report. Most members did not have comments.

Of the members who responded, one member appreciated learning about the new Disability Studies major and the development of new teaching tools to make teaching more accessible and would favor finding ways to distribute this information to instructors so they are adopted and implemented. The member also supported the idea of presenting to faculty through a slide presentation and appreciated the creation of statements about accommodations in the syllabus.

One member expressed endorsement of the report, particularly the need to involve students and instructors to collaborate with the Center for Accessible Education to establish clear mechanisms for assessing the impact of implemented changes on student learning and accessibility. The member also endorsed the sensibility of equitable and inclusive technological innovation explicit in the recommendation to benchmark and evaluate assistive technologies across several platforms and domains independently and through partnerships with other institutions, non-profits, and corporations.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this matter. If you have any questions, please contact us via Graduate Council Analyst, Emily Le, at ele@senate.ucla.edu.