March 27, 2024

To: Andrea Kasko, Chair, Academic Senate

From: Catherine Sugar, Chair, Undergraduate Council

Re: Joint Rebuilding and Renewal Task Force Report

The Undergraduate Council independently reviewed the report of the Joint Rebuilding and Renewal Task Force.

Among those that responded, some members expressed concern about the absence of discussion of issues related to undergraduate education. While recognizing that the task force had limited time to address many complex topics, members felt that the report’s lack of engagement with instructional challenges represents a significant omission in the current environment. In recent years, faculty labor has been greatly impacted by a confluence of factors including the pandemic, new labor contracts, increasing demand for hybrid teaching modalities and accommodations, and the rise of AI. UCLA faculty need additional resources, training, and support to handle these numerous challenges, and right now they are simply being expected to absorb them. The Undergraduate Council encourages the task force to continue addressing these important issues, which deserve further serious consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to opine. If you have any questions, please contact me via the Undergraduate Council analyst, Julia Nelsen, at jnelsen@senate.ucla.edu.

cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Julia Nelsen, Principal Policy Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate