March 28, 2024

To: Andrea Kasko, Chair
   UCLA Academic Senate

Re: Accessibility and Instruction Working Group Report

At its meeting on March 12, 2024, the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (CODEI) discussed the Accessibility and Instruction Working Group Report. The committee agreed that the report was well done but identified various areas which should be further addressed.

Various times throughout the discussion, committee members highlighted that the needs of students should be a main focus of the report. In this current draft, a small portion of the report highlights the impact on students but members agreed that this theme should be a pillar of the report. For example, a statement is made in the report that alludes to students with disabilities are not seeking support for their disabilities. Members felt that the report should include solutions to issues such as these.

The committee also asks that the Working Group consider recommending additional support be provided to the Center for Accessible Education (CAE). Various members identified that students and faculty often run into issues when arranging accommodations for students due to difficulty getting through to CAE. Further, it would be helpful for instructors to have more information on CAE and the resources available to students. A member stated that having a ballpark idea of what can be provided would allow instructors to clearly identify what the needs of the students are and how they can assist the student. Currently, an “accommodations statement” is included in syllabi, but members added that additional information to provide students and inform instructors would be helpful.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the report and provide comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (thall@mednet.ucla.edu) or Academic Senate Policy Analyst, Lilia Valdez (lvaldez@senate.ucla.edu).

Sincerely,

Theodore Hall, Chair
Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

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 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion