April 9, 2024

To: Andrea Kasko
   Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

From: Aaron Meyer
   Chair, Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee

Re: UCLA Scope 2 and 3 Emissions Reduction Recommendation

Dear Chair Kasko and the Executive Board,

At the March 4, 2024, meeting of the Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee (CRCC) of the Executive Board, members unanimously approved a motion to recommend that the UCLA Administration address Scope 2 and 3 emissions in the near future to tackle more of the university's impacts on the climate and to do so alongside other California institutions.

The UCLA Decarbonization Study is underway and analyzes how to reduce on-site Scope 1 emissions. However, reductions in Scope 2 and 3 emissions could potentially occur in parallel. Furthermore, Scope 2 and 3 emissions represent the majority of emissions and are of larger magnitude than those included within Scope 1. Therefore, members proposed that UCLA draft a plan on how to reduce Scope 2 and 3 emissions as well. If a divisional study is not possible, members suggested that the Administration advocate for a study of UC campuses’ Scope 2 and 3 emissions.

The California State Legislature recently passed Senate Bill No. 253 Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act, which requires California businesses with revenues above $1 billion to report their Scope 1 and 2 emissions starting in 2026 and their Scope 3 emissions in 2027. The University of California system was specifically exempted from this requirement. However, members recommended that the UC Regents approve to make the University of California accountable as well. The UC campuses are California institutions that should be held to the same standard and serve as examples to other California institutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to convey CRCC recommendations on this important topic. Members request Executive Board endorsement and subsequent distribution to the Chancellor and Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost.

Cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
    Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
    April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
    Charlotte Rose, Administrative Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate
    Members of the Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee