April 18, 2024

Andrea Kasko, Chair
Academic Senate

Re: Final Report of the University of California Systemwide Advisory Workgroup on Students with Disabilities

Dear Chair Kasko,

The Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) discussed the Final Report of the UC Systemwide Advisory Workgroup on Students with Disabilities at its meeting on April 1, 2024.

Members shared a diverse range of opinions. Some were skeptical of the need to appoint a UC Chief Accessibility Officer at a time when the ranks of university administrators and the bureaucratic procedures they oversee keep swelling, and in the face of dire budgetary constraints. Members noted that the UC system often seems to try and address issues of genuine importance—or to show that it is trying to address them—by creating new positions and questioned whether this approach was proving to be effective in actually solving problems. Other members were in support of the creation of an Accessibility Office, since most universities have one and the number of students with disabilities keeps growing. Members also observed that page 12 of the report shows an increase in expenses, a higher number of cases, and additional funding and resources needed.

Finally, while members appreciated the hard work that went into preparing the report, they observed that it could have been written with more care as they found the language to be less clear than it should be and the report to be riddled with typographical errors.

If you have any questions for us, please do not hesitate to contact me at emmerich@humnet.ucla.edu or via the Council’s analyst, Elizabeth Feller, at efeller@senate.ucla.edu.

Best regards,

Michael Emmerich, Chair
Council on Planning and Budget
cc:    Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
      Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
      April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
      Elizabeth Feller, Associate Director, Academic Senate
      Members of the Council on Planning and Budget