April 19, 2024

To: Andrea Kasko, Chair, Academic Senate
From: Catherine Sugar, Chair, Undergraduate Council
Re: Final report of the UC Systemwide Advisory Workgroup on Students with Disabilities

At its meeting on April 12, 2024, the Undergraduate Council reviewed the Systemwide Advisory Workgroup Report on Students with Disabilities.

Members and undergraduate student representatives voiced support for the report and its recommendations. Some underscored that students with physical disabilities and mobility issues require significant support, and suggested including stronger language in the report to emphasize the need for increased access to classrooms and lab spaces.

Members echoed the importance of supporting faculty in all aspects of making courses accessible to a diverse and expanding population of students with disabilities. At the same time, members note that such recommendations pose numerous challenges for faculty staff who may themselves require disability-related accommodations. The Undergraduate Council notes that robust investments in infrastructure and pedagogical support will be essential to create universally accessible learning environments across the UC system.

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

cc: Kathy 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, Academic Senate