April 26, 2024

To: Andrea Kasko, Chair
    UCLA Academic Senate

Re: (Systemwide Senate Review) Proposed Academic Senate Statement on UC Quality

At its meeting on April 9, 2024, the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion discussed the proposed Academic Senate Statement on UC Quality.

Members identified that the statement is useful, but appears a bit outdated. Suggestions were raised for the drafters to consider how the effects of the pandemic have changed the UC Quality. Similarly, members identified that since the graduate student strike, the opportunities of students have changed and this should be reflected in a statement on UC Quality.

Members shared that the current statement read as something which only had a certain type of students in mind, which does not reflect the student body at UCLA. The committee found that the statement would benefit from highlighting the student experience of various groups, such as international students.

Committee members also identified that there has been an economic shift, which should be mentioned in this statement, as it has greatly affected the quality of education. Members agreed that as a statement, this is very aspirational but it tends to be the inverse of the actual experience of faculty when looking at research and teaching qualities. Further, the barriers to achieve these goals have become worse and faculty are finding it almost impossible to match what is being advertised here.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this matter. 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