May 14, 2024

James Steintrager
Chair, UC Academic Senate

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

Dear Chair Steintrager,

The divisional Executive Board (EB) appreciated the opportunity to review the final report of the University of California systemwide advisory workgroup on students with disabilities. EB reviewed the report and divisional committee and council responses at its meeting on May 9, 2024.

Members appreciated the report and voted in favor of a motion to make the points below. (One student representative voted in favor of the motion.)

Members support the civil rights and diversity components of this report, and appreciated the data. They highlighted that there is no mention of faculty labor required for implementation and how the University plans to remove responsibilities to create space for faculty to do this work. In addition, there are faculty with disabilities, which also means thinking about how to support disabled faculty to do this work as they may have different needs.

In addition to the fact that faculty need support to make courses accessible, there is the larger question about what accessibility looks like for a lab class, an art studio course, and so on.

Many faculty have a strong reaction against recording lectures for different reasons, and are not supportive of its use as an accommodation without proper pedagogical development.

The Graduate and Undergraduate Councils of the Los Angeles Division have taken up the issue considered in this report with regard to Incomplete grades and notation, and recently made policy decisions.

Members agreed with the feedback from divisional Senate committees and councils, and requested a close review of the attached committee letters.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kasko
Chair
UCLA Academic Senate
Encl.

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