June 12, 2024

Gene Block
Chancellor, UCLA

Darnell Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, UCLA

Re: Questions to Administration on the Recent Campus Response

Dear Chancellor Block and EVCP Hunt,

On June 6, 2024, the Executive Board voted unanimously in favor of a motion to send this list of questions to you about Administration’s response to recent campus situations including the encampment, violence, and protests. Members affirmed the importance of transparency and accountability in order for the campus to heal, learn, and ensure different processes and outcomes in the future.

The Executive Board requests your response prior to Chancellor Block’s retirement in July.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kasko
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
    Michael Beck, Administrative Vice Chancellor, UCLA
    Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
    April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
    Yolanda Gorman, Senior Advisor to the Chancellor and Chief of Staff
    Adriana Rosalez, Administrative Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate
    Emily Rose, Assistant Provost & Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost
Questions on the Recent Campus Response

April 30, 2024 Attack on the Encampment

1. The Los Angeles Times and other sources report that very few campus police were on duty on the night of April 30, despite increasing harassment of the encampment on nights leading up to the attack. We have also read reports of cancelled requests for mutual aid in the prior week, and of security plans that were requested but not followed up on. What steps were taken prior to April 30 to protect campus from violent intruders?

2. What requests were made for mutual aid between April 25 and May 1, and from what agencies? Who made the decision to call for mutual aid? Who made the decision to cancel any requests? What criteria were used to determine the need for mutual aid? Who determined these criteria?

3. What were the staffing levels of UCPD (breakdown by shift/time) between April 25 and May 1, and what criteria were used to determine the appropriate staffing levels? Who determined these criteria?

4. How and why was a police response so delayed?

5. To what extent were procurement issues a factor in the delayed response? An article in the L.A. Times specifically stated “LAPD told [Chief Thomas] there was a problem with the payment system between the city and state, so the arrangements “couldn’t be done by the time of the attack.”

6. Why did police (UCLA, UCPD as well as other police) not intervene to stop violent behavior?

7. What efforts are underway to identify and hold accountable those who participated in the violence of April 30-May 1? The arrest of Edan On has been reported in the media, but what about other instigators who have been identified by journalists?

Jumbotron

1. Who allowed the installation of the Jumbotron without a permit? What was the criteria and rationale for this decision?

2. What was the rationale for not immediately removing the Jumbotron after the counter-demonstration on April 28? Who made the decision?

3. What were the rationale and criteria for allowing the Jumbotron to blast loud and deeply objectionable material for days? Who made the decision?

Clearing the Encampment

1. What were the rationale and criteria for allowing the establishment of the encampment? What will be the rationale and criteria in the future?

2. Who made the decision, and what was the rationale, first to not clear the encampment and then to clear it?

3. Were there specific safety concerns related to the encampment prior to May 1? If so, what were they and what evidence supported those concerns? What actions were taken to address those concerns before making the decision to clear the encampment?

4. When was the decision to clear the encampment made, and what criteria were used to determine the need to clear the encampment?

5. Who made advance decisions about which outside police forces (mutual aid) to call and what their roles would be? What were the criteria for the decisions?
6. Which police force was in charge of coordinating the clearing process? What were the criteria for determining the lead agency?

7. When mutual aid was engaged, who was in charge of the law enforcement operation after the arrival and assembly of mutual aid forces?

8. Who decided to use rubber bullets and on what basis?

9. Were snipers present at any point? If so, who decided that snipers were a necessary and appropriate response? What was the rationale?

10. Who made the decision to arrest individuals? Was the Administration involved or consulted in any way in the decision-making process? If so, how?

11. How many UCLA students, faculty, and staff were arrested? What were the charges? When were they released?

12. What policy and protocol did the officers follow when they arrested individuals, including faculty?

13. What disciplinary processes have been activated for students related to participation in the encampment? For how many students? What consequences are likely? What timeframe?

Faculty Disciplinary Processes

1. What is the Administration’s plan for investigating faculty who have been arrested? Is this current approach consistent with past campus practices? If not, why?

2. When campus affiliates are arrested for other reasons, are campus disciplinary processes activated? How are decisions made whether or not to file charges for those who are arrested?

3. Is the Administration in dialogue with the prosecutor’s office about these arrests and potential attendant charges? Will the Administration request to drop any charges against those faculty who were arrested?

4. Is the Administration planning to file charges with the Senate charges committee against any faculty related to their participation in the encampment? How many? If this is to occur, who will file charges? How is the decision made whether or not to file charges? What are the criteria?

Appointment of Associate Vice Chancellor Rick Braziel and Creation of an Office of Campus Safety

1. Who made the decision to appoint AVC Braziel, and how was he selected? Were there any other candidates?

2. Where is the funding coming from for this new position?

3. Why does the campus need a new AVC level position when OEM and Police already reported to the VC of Administration?

4. What is being done to hold administrators and staff accountable for their job performance related to the campus violence?

5. When and how will the Academic Senate have an opportunity to advise on this new office?

6. What are the criteria for determining the need for outside security (non-police) on campus? Who decided the criteria and staffing levels?

May 6, May 23 and Ongoing Protests

1) In what ways, if any, has Administration used the University of California Robinson-Edley report to inform decision-making on campus with regard to protests?

2) What protocols have been established with regards to the campus response to protesters?
3) Who established the protocols and how have they been reviewed?
4) What are the criteria for calling in mutual aid in response to campus protests? How were these criteria determined?
5) What are the criteria that escalate a peaceful protest to an unlawful assembly? Who makes the decision to declare unlawful assembly?
6) What is the decision-making process for applying California penal code 626.4 instead of customary institutional disciplinary processes? What are the criteria, and who determined them?
7) What were the criteria and rationale for "limited" or “modified” campus operations and also closing specific buildings?

Costs and Ongoing Concerns
1. What are the costs of the protests and counter protests, including but not limited to security, staff overtime, mutual aid, and damage to property? Who is responsible for these costs? How do these costs impact the overall campus budget?
2. Who determines the operational level of campus, and what are the criteria for each category (e.g., modified operations, limited operations, etc.)? How are decisions made for exceptions to these criteria (e.g., UCLA Health, ECE and K-12 education)?
3. What is being done to address the concerns of community members who felt harassed and otherwise threatened by the encampment activities, by April 30 and May 1 events, including those who have reported harassment or intimidation from security and law enforcement?
4. What is being done to address the concern of community members who are intimidated by the large security and police presence on campus? How will all families be made to feel welcome for graduation?
5. How will Administration keep students safe, especially from non-affiliates who want to harm students?