

March 19, 2026

Julio Frenk
UCLA Chancellor

Darnell Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost (EVCP)

Re: UCLA Real Estate Expenses

Dear Chancellor Frenk and EVCP Hunt,

The Executive Board (EB) of the Los Angeles Division of the University of California Academic Senate writes to offer advice about one potential avenue for the campus to reduce expenses and redirect financial resources towards academic units. At its meeting on March 19, 2026, EB members unanimously endorsed this letter and requests a reply within 60 days that describes your plans to reduce real estate-related expenses and redirect the resources to teaching and research endeavors.

While recent attention has focused on significant major real estate acquisitions (South Bay, Trust Building, Research Park), there are dozens of other properties that UCLA owns and leases around southern California. The campus spends tens of millions of dollars to lease office space for administrative units even as it has extensive vacancies in buildings that it owns. Several years ago, there was discussion involving the broader campus of consolidating administrative office space both on and off campus to not only realize cost savings, but also to meet the needs of an increasingly hybrid workforce and mitigate campus carbon emissions.

EB members advise that you move ahead rapidly with implementation of a plan to reduce real estate expenses by consolidating or eliminating leased office space for administrative units. The displaced administrative units could occupy vacant space in other campus-owned buildings. Building out vacant space for administrative units does not need to be an expensive undertaking: in a world of hybrid offices and hoteling there are many low-cost options to set up spaces for computer, desk, and zoom-based activities. Concomitant development of policies that encourage efficient use of spaces would enable appropriate space utilization.

At a time when UCLA faces a structural deficit and external funding threats, acting proactively, decisively, and creatively to reduce administrative expenses and redirect the resources to protect and support the academic mission.

Sincerely,
Megan McEvoy
UCLA Academic Senate Chair

Cc: Kathy Bawn, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate

Tim Groeling, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Reem Hanna-Harwell, Interim Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, UCLA
Samantha Luu, Executive Assistant to the EVCP, UCLA
Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the EVCP, UCLA
Julie Sina, Chief of Staff to the Chancellor, UCLA