

Executive Board

Review of UCLA Sustainability Master Plan, Curricula  
& Research Section

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# UCLA Academic Senate

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May 27, 2022

Nurit Katz  
Chief Sustainability Officer and Executive Officer, Facilities Management

Re: Review of Revised UCLA Sustainability Master Plan, Curricula & Research Section

Dear CSO Katz,

At its meeting on April 14, 2022, the Executive Board review the revised UCLA Sustainability Master Plan (the Plan). Members appreciated the opportunity to review the revised Plan and the intent to formulate a coordinated response to promote sustainability at UCLA. Overall, there was widespread support expressed on the Executive Board for sustainability initiatives. For this discussion, we focused more narrowly on the Plan's section 3, "Curricula + Research."

We recognize that we were unable to respond before the Plan was distributed, and we apologize for that. Still, we offer this response in the spirit of looking forward to its implementation.

In general, Executive Board members were enthusiastic about growing curricular and research attention at UCLA to sustainability. However, members questioned the advisability of efforts contemplated by the Plan to address tenure, promotion, curriculum, and accreditation.

Members requested the removal (or, now that is it published, the rethinking), of section 03.2 on tenure. The Executive Board concluded that the Plan should not make recommendations about what should be rewarded in the context of tenure and promotion.

Members advised further consultation with relevant academic units about the curricular elements and accreditation. It was unclear who would determine what constituted sustainability in course content. While endorsing the idea that we ought to assess how sustainability is incorporated into instruction and research, members remained unclear about what sustainability would look like in a coordinated curricular initiative across the campus, and how this would support or undermine existing curricular efforts in academic units.

We appreciate the opportunity to advise your office on this crucial issue. We wholeheartedly share your commitment to sustainability and hope that the commentary will assist you in concretely advancing campus sustainability.

Sincerely,

Jessica Cattelino  
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: Shane White, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate  
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate

April 22, 2021

Dear Chair White,

I am delighted to share with you this [draft of UCLA's first Sustainability Master Plan \(linked\)](#) for Academic Senate Review. The plan covers the breadth of sustainability initiatives at UCLA across academics, operations, and engagement and aims to provide a cohesive vision for these university wide programs. This document represents the input of hundreds of faculty, staff, and students at UCLA. Many of the initiatives are drawn from existing plans such as our zero waste plan or carbon neutrality plan. The curricula and research section is new and the result of workshops with over 70 faculty from diverse disciplines who contributed to the development of the initiatives in that chapter.

This current draft is also under review by our Executive Sustainability Committee. There are placeholders for some content, including additional graphics and photos and some additional highlights may be added, as well as some school/division specific initiatives we are collecting from the Deans.

I look forward to insights and input from the Senate committees. Please let the committee chairs know they can contact me with any questions. We would also welcome comments from individual faculty as they review. This [video linked in box](#) outlines how to review and add comments to the PDF in Acrobat Online.

Sincerely,



Nurit Katz  
Chief Sustainability Officer  
UCLA

CC: April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate