

June 23, 2023

Darnell Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost (EVCP)

Re: Campus Pre-K-12 Affordability and Accessibility for Faculty

Dear EVCP Hunt,

At its meeting on June 8, 2023, the Executive Board reviewed the attached Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC) Report and Addendum on campus Pre-K-12 affordability and accessibility for faculty. Members supported the further study and data analysis called for in the report, and expressed concern about whether UCLA's K-12 schools are adequately supporting the academic mission (in educating UCLA community children and advancing research). They voted unanimously in favor of a motion to oppose the transfer of authority and change in governance reflected in new reporting lines for Superintendent Devin Serrano (especially without faculty consultation), and insist on FWC receiving requested data on access and costs.

The Report made recommendations about affordability, accessibility, and the relative dearth of UCLA-associated families at the Lab School and Geffen Academy. It also raised concerns about how UCLA is using these resources, including for faculty recruitment and retention, and noted the schools are falling short of their own goals. It indicated that the FWC has not received all the requested data about access and costs. Executive Board members shared the FWC concerns about whether valuable resources of the Lab School and Geffen Academy are being deployed to recruit and retain faculty and staff, and to improve faculty and staff inclusion and work-life balance. At a time when the Faculty Forward Initiative and hiring initiatives point to the importance of not only recruitment but also retention and climate, members were concerned that our schools are not serving campus needs. It seems that School of Education and Information Studies (SEIS) has positioned the Lab School for fundraising, with donors and the very wealthy overrepresented among families. To our dismay, the Geffen Academy has revised its mission after never achieving founding goals of educating 50% UCLA community children.

Further, the Report and Executive Board members observed that the mission of the UCLA elementary school (aka the Lab School) was educational research and improvement, with a tertiary use for faculty retention. Due to what the FWC report suggests was poor stewardship of the Lab school in the past decade, the research mission has faltered.

The report's Addendum raised concerns about the recent transition of the reporting line of Superintendent Serrano to the SEIS Dean. Executive Board members affirmed the importance of an independent superintendent. They questioned the recent reorganization of governance of the schools and reporting lines without faculty input. One member observed that it made as much sense for the SEIS Dean to oversee the Geffen Academy as for the Law Dean to oversee Legal Affairs.

On behalf of the Executive Board and FWC, we request a response to the matters of how UCLA can best deploy our schools to support the academic mission (including by educating UCLA community children), the governance of PreK-12 education, as well as the need for additional study and analysis.

Sincerely,



Jessica Cattelino

Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: Phillip Bonacich, Faculty Welfare Committee Chair
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Andrea Kasko, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the EVCP
Renee Rouzan-Kay, Senior Policy Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate
Shane White, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate