Faculty Welfare Committee

Campus PreK-12 Affordability and Accessibility for Faculty Report and Recommendations

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June 18, 2024

Darnell Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Re: Proposed Joint Task Force on Campus PreK-12 Programs

Dear Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Hunt,

At the June 6, 2024, meeting of the Executive Board, members reviewed the FWC letter dated May 1, 2024, that was a response to your March 28, 2024, letter to the Executive Board. This latest correspondence continues a dialogue about affordability and accessibility for faculty of the campus PreK-12 Programs comprised of Early Care and Education, the Lab School, and the Geffen Academy.

Executive Board members voted unanimously in favor of a motion for Senate Leadership to develop a co-charge with you over the summer to establish a joint task force to focus on issues related to the academic mission, shared governance, affordability, and accessibility of PreK-12 programs at UCLA. Members noted that it would be important for the Administration and Senate to agree on the joint task force membership to ensure that it would be productive, independent, and forward-looking.

On behalf of the Executive Board, Senate Leadership looks forward to discussing the creation of this joint task force, and if so, working with you on a charge during the summer.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kasko
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
    Samantha Butler, Faculty Welfare Committee Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
    Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
    April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
    Elizabeth Feller, Associate Director, UCLA Academic Senate
    Adriana Rosalez, Administrative Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate
    Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the EVCP, UCLA
    Renee Rouzan-Kay, Senior Policy Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate
May 1, 2024

Andrea Kasko, Chair
Academic Senate

Re: Campus PreK-12 Affordability and Accessibility for Faculty Report

Dear Chair Kasko,

At its April 2, 2024, meeting, the Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC) discussed the letter from Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Darnell Hunt dated March 28 in response to the Campus PreK-12 Affordability and Accessibility for Faculty Report.

The FWC reviewed the most recent letter from EVC/P Hunt and found that, while the tone was significantly improved from the first letter, it was still dismissive in substance. The response again sidestepped, providing the information that the FWC has repeatedly requested and did not respond substantively to the FWC’s recommendations or concerns.

The issue of accessibility/affordability in the UCLA Schools system becomes more pressing every year as Los Angeles becomes increasingly unaffordable to faculty. The rising cost of daycares/schools is unsustainable. As discussed in a recent Executive Board meeting, the daycare fees have risen to $36,000/year per infant, while UCLA claims the actual cost is even higher (~$53,000/year in 2022). Moreover, the FWC’s concerns about SEIS stewardship have only deepened since our December 2023 letter, given the new crisis of leadership that has recently engulfed the Krieger Center. Affected SEIS faculty, in particular, face a challenging conflict of interest as they navigate the consequences of the abuse scandal for their families: their Dean is also responsible for the oversight of their children’s daycare. It again speaks to the importance of having an independent, competent leadership with the necessary professional expertise in PreK-12 school management.

Given the extended timeline that EVC/P Hunt has repeatedly taken to respond to the FWC’s requests for information and that our considerable efforts have so far had minimal effect, despite the seriousness of the problem, the FWC no longer considers it effective to respond in a point-by-point manner to EVC/P Hunt. The FWC also has concerns about whether arguments are being made to us in good faith since we have been unable to find any notes suggesting that either EVC/P Carter or Waugh met with the FWC in the last six years on this issue, as suggested in the most recent response.

The FWC is thus requesting that the Executive Board form an Ad hoc School Committee to permit the Academic Senate to study further the oversight and governance of the UCLA Schools system and the cost-effectiveness of the schools and assess whether they are fulfilling our academic mission in their current form. We hope this committee will be able to make better headway in understanding the different issues facing the UCLA Schools system and draw up a set of recommendations to help faculty families that the administration takes more seriously.
If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at butlersj@ucla.edu or via the Committee analyst, Renee Rouzan-Kay, at rrouzankay@senate.ucla.edu.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Samantha Butler, Chair
Faculty Welfare Committee

cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Renee Rouzan-Kay, Senior Policy Analyst, Faculty Welfare Committee
Members of the Faculty Welfare Committee
January 5, 2024

Darnell Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Re: Campus PreK-12 Affordability and Accessibility for Faculty

Dear Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Hunt,

At the December 7, 2023, meeting of the Executive Board, members reviewed your October 24, 2023, response to the Executive Board’s letter dated June 23, 2023, about the Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC) Report and Addendum on campus Pre-K-12 affordability and accessibility for faculty, and the FWC response to your letter, dated November 30, 2023.

Members voted in favor of a motion to convey the attached FWC letter to you, urge you to meet with Executive Board and FWC members, and to subsequently ensure a substantive response from you to the questions posed by FWC.

Members concurred with FWC that the essential questions are: What is the purpose of the Geffen Academy and Lab School? How do they advance the academic university mission of research, teaching, and service?

Members offered the following additional observations and questions that followed the emphasis of the FWC letter:

- It appears there has been a substantial shift in the purpose and mission of both schools. When, how and why did their missions change?
- What resources—monetary, space, staffing, and time—are being drawn from UCLA fund sources to support these two schools? To what degree are the revenue sources of the schools derived from tuition and fundraising? To what degree are the two schools “self-supporting?” What were the reasons for ending the subsidy for faculty and staff that used to exist for the Lab School?
- Members noted that the Academic Senate opposed the transfer of the reporting line of the Superintendent of Schools from Administration to a School dean.
- Regarding the issue of Senate authority raised in your response, if the Geffen Academy was established to address faculty retention needs, then it is clearly within the purview of FWC. If the Geffen Academy’s contribution to the academic mission is related to teaching and learning then it would fall under the curricular authority of the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils. (Notably, FWC has not found undergraduate or graduate courses associated with the Geffen Academy or Lab School or recent publications based on projects at the Lab School.)

The Executive Board looks forward to your continued engagement on these issues.
Sincerely,

Andrea Kasko
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
    Samantha Butler, Faculty Welfare Committee Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
    Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
    April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
    Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the EVCP, UCLA
    Renee Rouzan-Kay, Senior Policy Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate