

November 14, 2022

Jessica Cattelino, Chair
Academic Senate

Re: Athletic Conference Realignment

Dear Chair Cattelino,

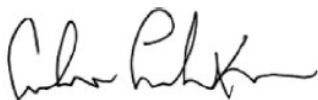
At its meeting on October 24, 2022, the Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) reviewed the Executive Board's request for advisement on the University's Athletic Conference Realignment. Members offered the following comments and questions.

Members comments were focused on the priorities for use of funds. Most discussion focused on the "first best use" of funds. Some members opined that it would be most appropriate to pay off the debt that Athletics ran into during the pandemic, and decrease the dependence of Athletics on campus support. Others believes that funds should be shared with other campus programs. Several members questioned whether there would be a requirement from the UC system to share funding with the Office of the President or UC Berkeley, and whether this would affect campus autonomy in fund allocation.

Several members proposed tracking and monitoring the impact of the change on athletes' academic performance and their welfare. Other members commented that the move is clearly driven by an effort to enhance revenue, and were concerned that there was limited consideration for the welfare and academic performance of student athletes. Given that these athletes efforts generate revenue for the university, some members recommended that revenue be used to support athletes who are injured in performance of their sport.

If you have any questions for us, please do not hesitate to contact me at afl@ucla.edu or via the Council's analyst, Elizabeth Feller, at efeller@senate.ucla.edu.

Best regards,



Andrew Leuchter, Chair
Council on Planning and Budget

cc: Andrea Kasko, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
Shane White, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Elizabeth Feller, Assistant Director, Academic Senate
Members of the Council on Planning and Budget