

Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee

Climate Change in UCLA Curricula and Research

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From: Hunt, Darnell M <dhunt@conet.ucla.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 12:32 PM
To: Kasko, Andrea <akasko@senate.ucla.edu>
Cc: Rose, Emily <erose@conet.ucla.edu>; de Stefano, April <adestefano@senate.ucla.edu>; Johnson, Tracy <tjohnson@college.ucla.edu>; García-Garibay, Miguel <mgarciagaribay@college.ucla.edu>; Valenzuela, Abel <avalenzuela@college.ucla.edu>; Stern, Alex <amstern@college.ucla.edu>; Galvan, Adriana <agalvan@college.ucla.edu>
Subject: Curriculum and Climate Change

Dear Chair Kasko,

In response to the attached Senate letter regarding elevating the prominence of climate change in UCLA curricula and the campus sustainability plan, please know that these issues have been top of mind for me. The College deans, led by Dean Johnson, are taking the lead in designing a curriculum for our new South Bay campus, which, as the JTF recommended, will focus on sustainability, climate change, and environmental justice.

As I understand it, a primary concern of the Executive Board is that we ensure climate change courses are available and legible to students, and not obscured by a broader focus on sustainability. I'm copying the deans so that they are aware of this concern and can frame their planning around the South Bay program -- which will necessarily impact what we do on the Westwood campus -- in light of it.

I look forward to working with the College and the Senate to ensure that there is ample consultation throughout this process.

Best,

--dhunt

Darnell M. Hunt, PhD
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost
UCLA

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Preferred pronouns: he/him/his

<https://evcp.ucla.edu/>

Sent from my iPhone

April 12, 2024

Darnell Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Re: Climate Change in UCLA Curricula and Research

At the April 11, 2024, meeting of the Executive Board (EB), members reviewed the attached Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee's (CRCC) recommendations for addressing climate change in UCLA curricula and research. EB members unanimously voted by consent to endorse the attached letter.

We would appreciate your distribution of these recommendations to senior administrative leaders for their consideration as well as a response that addresses these important recommendations.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kasko
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Cc: Kathy Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Aaron Meyer, Chair, CRCC, UCLA Academic Senate
Charlotte Rose, Administrative Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate
Emily Rose, Assistant Provost & Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

March 6, 2024

To: Andrea Kasko
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

From: Aaron Meyer
Chair, Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee

Re: **Climate Change in UCLA Curricula and Research**

Dear Chair Kasko and the Executive Board,

At the January 22, 2024 meeting of the Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee (CRCC) of the Executive Board, members unanimously approved a motion to recommend that climate change should have greater prominence in UCLA's Sustainability Plan and initiatives, and requested information about how the campus could make climate change-related courses more visible and available to students.

Members noted that the Administration recently charged a Faculty Working Group for Sustainability in Curricula and Research to implement Section 3: Curricula and Research of the UCLA Sustainability Plan. Members recommended that climate change should have greater prominence and be distinct from sustainability. The climate should be elevated to the extent that the campus is trying to advance education and research on climate, not just under an umbrella of sustainability message. Climate change needs to be a focus in and of itself in both curricula and research.

Members expressed an interest in making information specifically about courses related to climate change more readily available to undergraduates. Toward this end, members were interested in information about the best avenues to do so. They recommended that amplifying relevant courses would encourage student enrollment even without having an actual course requirement. Members recommended asking for information about how the campus can and does amplify current and potential UCLA climate change and climate crisis courses. They noted that while the [Academics and Research webpage](#) on the UCLA Sustainability website includes a [link](#) to an inventory of sustainability courses, they wondered how many students were aware of this resource and how frequently it was updated. Would it be possible for the UCLA Registrar to code climate change courses to increase visibility to students and track enrollment? What else could be done to amplify these courses? Are terms such as "climate change," "climate crisis," and "environment" searchable in the course catalog by students?

Lastly, members suggested asking whether there is an opportunity to encourage the creation of new courses. For instance, the Cluster program, Fiat Lux program, or another existing instrument could be used to encourage interdisciplinary courses addressing climate change. Would the Administration consider providing incentives, and a specific call, for faculty to develop courses on the climate crisis?

Thank you for the opportunity to convey CRCC recommendations and questions on this important topic.

Cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Charlotte Rose, Administrative Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate
Members of the Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee