Executive Board

UCLA Decarbonization Study

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June 12, 2024

Darnell Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost (EVCP)

Michael Beck
Administrative Vice Chancellor (AVC)

Re: UCLA Decarbonization Study

Dear EVCP Hunt and AVC Beck,

At the June 6, 2024, meeting of the Executive Board, members reviewed the draft executive summary of the UCLA Decarbonization Study. After review and discussion, members voted to approve a motion to thank you for the opportunity to review this important study and share the attached recommendations from the Campus Response to the Climate Crisis (CRCC) special committee of the Executive Board. We hope these CRCC recommendations help to inform the final study report.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kasko
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

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
    Nurit Katz, Chief Sustainability Officer, UCLA
    Adriana Rosalez, Administrative Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate
    Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the EVCP
    Michelle Sityar, Chief of Staff to the AVC
May 30, 2024

To: Andrea Kasko  
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

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

Re: UCLA Decarbonization Study

Dear Chair Kasko and the Executive Board,

At the May 8, 2024, meeting of the Campus Response to the Climate Crisis Special Committee (CRCC) of the Executive Board, members reviewed and discussed the UCLA Decarbonization Study Report.

CRCC members made several recommendations. Members advised focusing on a smaller number of criteria that relate to system reliability, performance, cost-effectiveness, and environmental footprint. This is especially important since the UCLA medical center, and thus people’s lives, depend on consistent energy from that energy system. Other suggestions included that acceleration scenarios need not be so prioritized while the more essential objectives need to be. Finally, some representation of uncertainty would be helpful in the report; the numerical scoring of the assessment criteria suggests a degree of certainty that may not be supported by evidence.

Thank you for the opportunity to opine. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ameyer@ucla.edu or via the Committee analyst, Charlotte Rose, at crose@senate.ucla.edu.

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
May 30, 2024

Andrea Kasko, Chair  
Academic Senate

Re: UCLA Decarbonization Study

Dear Chair Kasko,

The Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) discussed the UCLA Decarbonization Study report at its meeting on May 13, 2024.

Members noted that there are differences among the models that may indicate a subdivision of costs to units on campus. There may be costs that can be calibrated through potentially different accounting mechanisms. Members also observed that the plans presented have a separation with the hospital, which may be worth building into the analysis.

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

Best regards,

Michael Emmerich, Chair  
Council on Planning and Budget

cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate  
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate  
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate  
Elizabeth Feller, Associate Director, Academic Senate  
Members of the Council on Planning and Budget
May 13, 2024

Andrea Kasko, Chair
Academic Senate

Re: UCLA Decarbonization Study

Dear Chair Kasko,

At its May 7, 2024, meeting, the Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC) reviewed and discussed the UCLA Decarbonization Study Report.

The FWC found it difficult to provide an informed opinion on the decarbonization study. It did not have members with expertise or a full understanding of reducing and eliminating carbon emissions from the university’s day-to-day processes. Members agreed an electric plan is likely the most effective process to replace gas; however, they questioned what the benefits would be to moving solely to electric, needing more straightforward information on the climate comparison, implementation length, and resources needed to fund such a grand project would be.

Thank you for the opportunity to opine. 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,

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