

June 12, 2024

To: 2023-24 and 2024-25 Chairs, Standing Committees and Councils, Los Angeles Division of the UC Academic Senate

From: Andrea Kasko, Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
Kathy Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate

Re: Request for Consideration of Issues Related to Recent Campus Protests

At the May 23 and June 6, 2024, meetings of the Executive Board, members discussed how the Academic Senate could address campus issues related to the recent campus protests. They voted to approve a motion to request that the standing committees and councils consider the following topics in the context of the 2023-24 academic year and provide feedback to the Executive Board by the end of November 2024.

Some of the proposed topics and guiding questions in the context of the 2023-24 academic year include:

Shared Governance between the Divisional Academic Senate and Campus Administration

1. What are some examples/situations where the Academic Senate effectively exercised its advisory or authority roles?
2. What are some examples where the Administration did not engage effectively in shared governance with the Academic Senate?
3. What are some lessons learned for both the Senate and Administration that will foster shared governance during future campus crises/challenges?
4. In which areas would you like to have greater transparency from Administration?
5. In what areas is Senate advisement critical to decision-making moving forward?

Administration Decisions about Policing and Security on Campus

1. In what ways did the Administration's decisions about policing and security impact teaching, learning, and research?
2. In what ways did those decisions directly affect faculty morale and well-being?
3. What could the Academic Senate or the Administration do to ameliorate any negative consequences, particularly to vulnerable community members?

Free Speech, Academic Freedom, and Civil Disobedience

1. How can the Senate best support the right to free speech and academic freedom for faculty?

2. Are there ways in which the Administration's decisions negatively impacted free speech and academic freedom?
3. How can the Senate support free speech and academic freedom while maintaining inclusive environments?
4. How can the Senate support faculty who experience harm (e.g., doxing or bullying) for asserting (or choosing not to assert) their rights to free speech and academic freedom?

The Executive Board also welcomes feedback on other topics related to the recent campus protests that are not specifically mentioned above as well as how your committee or council plans to address these issues during the 2024-25 academic year. Again, we ask for your response memorandum by the end of November 2024.

Cc: Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair
Megan McEvoy, 2024-25 Vice Chair/Chair Elect
Staff, Los Angeles Division of the UC Academic Senate