April 9, 2015

Alex Bui, Chair
Graduate Council

Re: Proposal to Establish a New School: UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music
Proposal to Redefine an Existing School: UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture

Dear Alex,

The Undergraduate Council (UgC) completed its review of the two Appendix V proposals during its meeting on March 20, 2015. We noted the lack of unanimity in the votes on both proposals, but found sufficient explanation in the accompanying explanations, both from in the proposal and from the departments themselves. In our pre-review, we raised many points about the undergraduate curriculum and regulations, all of which were addressed in this final proposal. In the hopes of easing Graduate Council’s review, I will divide our comments below to address each proposal separately.

Proposal to Establish the Herb Alpert School of Music (HASOM)

The lack of unanimity in the votes from the three affected departments calls into question whether this Appendix V action is indeed “friendly.” The overall vote was overwhelmingly positive (30 – 6 “yes” among Senate Faculty and 71 – 7 “yes” among all faculty). The location of the Senate faculty “no” votes (three in Ethnomusicology and three in Musicology) and the accompanying departmental responses reveal curricular concerns for the proposed new school. Both departments express concern about the place for their scholarship in a School of Music, which could begin to resemble a traditional music conservatory, focused more on music performance than the study of music history and world music.

The council was pleased to see the detailed draft regulations for the proposed new school. We understand, from Vice Provost Emerita Smith’s correspondence in Fall 2014 that these regulations cannot be final until the school is constituted. The draft clearly addressed the council’s concerns about General Education and Diversity requirements for graduation. We did not see any more detail on admissions processes for the proposed new school. Currently, all applicants for undergraduate admissions in the School of the Arts and Architecture (SOAA), complete supplemental application materials and are evaluated by departmental faculty. This supplemental application also comes with an additional fee (on top of the UC application fee). The details of the undergraduate admissions process for the proposed School of Music needs to be developed, especially since student services (including admission) are proposed to be separate operations in SOAA and HASOM.
The Graduate and Undergraduate Councils called for the formation of a School of Music to house the Departments of Music, Musicology, and Ethnomusicology after the Program Review of the Department of Music in 2010-11 (echoing the previous two eight-year reviews of this department) and re-affirmed this call in the reviews of the Departments of Musicology and Ethnomusicology in 2013-14. In finally housing these three departments in a single school, though, we must be wary of the advice from the recent Program Review Reports. Recommendations about faculty civility and cooperation are beyond the purview of the council in this particular matter, but members wished to reiterate curricular issues, listed below:

- The Jazz Studies Program in the Department of Ethnomusicology has had a troubled past with the Department of Music. Enough time seems to have passed for reconciliation, but the 2013-14 review of the Department of Ethnomusicology revealed that many Jazz Studies majors preferred a conservatory-style program without the BA requirements for Ethnomusicology. The placement of Jazz Studies in the new school should be carefully considered.

- As we noted in our response to the pre-proposal in Fall 2014, the 2013-14 review of the Department of Musicology recommended that the department update its courses and change the subject area “Music History” to “Musicology.” Especially in light of the concerns about the role the department will have in the scholarship of the new school, the naming of these courses should be considered carefully.

- The 2013-14 Musicology Review also revealed that certain courses in the Music Department taken by Musicology students lacked sufficient rigor. This review went on to suggest more double-major programs among the three music-related departments. For this, or less-involved efforts of curricular integration, to occur, the three departments must cooperate. This cooperation is made even more necessary by the creation of the new school.

Proposal to Redefine the School of the Arts and Architecture

Here again, the non-unanimous vote raised questions about the “friendly” nature of this Appendix V action. Taken as a whole, the vote was positive (26 - 11 “yes” among Senate faculty and 38 - 13 “yes” among all faculty). The most troubling vote was in the Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance (WAC/D) (6 – 8 “yes” among Senate Faculty and 11 – 10 “yes” overall). Though the “no” votes are not directly explained, the WAC/D response to the proposal outlines the department’s concerns about their position in the redefined school. Though WAC/D identified many benefits to the redefinition of the school, UgC members sympathized with the concerns expressed. Members did not feel that any further investigation into this split vote was necessary, but suggests that the Graduate and Undergraduate councils work together, through the program review process, to ensure that the trajectory of the redefined school, as it plays out, appropriately incorporates dance, performance, and the study of world cultures.

In terms of curriculum, we do not see any serious immediate implications from this Appendix V action. SOAA has operated effectively under its existing regulations for a number of years and has an engaged Faculty Executive Committee. Of course, as we have learned through the
program review process, resource availability and allocation often directly correlate to a department’s or a school’s availability to offer a robust curriculum. So, as we have said above, we look forward to working with the Graduate Council to offer support to the departments remaining in the redefined SOAA.

The council does realize that many of the above comments lie outside of the Appendix V process. But, with the designation of this as a “friendly” action and the expedited process that accompanies this designation, members felt it necessary to reinforce the concerns of the minority votes on both actions. If you have any questions or if any of the above points require clarification, please contact me (x69449; jwg@chem.ucla.edu) or Undergraduate Council Analyst Matt Robinson (x51194; mrobinson@senate.ucla.edu).

Sincerely,

Jim Gober, Chair
Undergraduate Council

cc: Kyle Cunningham, Committee Analyst, Academic Senate
    Linda Mohr, CAO, Academic Senate
    Matt Robinson, Committee Analyst, Academic Senate
April 7, 2015

Alex Bui
Chair, Graduate Council

Re: Proposal to establish the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music and Redefine the UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture

Dear Professor Bui,

Thank you for providing the Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) with an opportunity to comment on the proposal for the establishment of the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music and to redefine the School of Arts and Architecture. The Council discussed the proposal via email, since there were no meetings scheduled during the month of March. After discussion, the council voted to support the proposal (11 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstain).

The membership majority agrees that the questions brought up in November have been answered on the final proposal. We do not see any obvious financial issues, and support the request.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this revised proposal. If you have any questions for us, please do not hesitate to contact me at sears@issr.ucla.edu, or via the Council on Planning and Budget’s committee analyst, Elizabeth Feller, at efeller@senate.ucla.edu or x62470.

Sincerely,

David O. Sears, Chair
Council on Planning and Budget

cc: Kyle Cunningham, Committee Analyst, Graduate Council
Linda Mohr, Chief Administrative Officer, Academic Senate Office
Elizabeth Feller, Committee Analyst, Council on Planning and Budget
Members of the Council on Planning and Budget
March 12, 2015

Jim Gober, Chair
Undergraduate Council

David O. Sears, Chair
Council on Planning and Budget

Dear Professors Gober and Sears,

As you know, the Academic Senate received the enclosed proposals from Emerita Professor and Dean/Vice Provost Judith Smith for the establishment of the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music and the redefinition of the School of Arts & Architecture at UCLA. Smith is serving as the administrative liaison for the coordination and preparation of both proposals. The Academic Senate’s Executive Board has assigned the actions to the Graduate Council as the designated committee, which will follow the procedures as outlined in Appendix V of the Divisional Manual of the Academic Senate.

In order to facilitate the Graduate Council’s review and ultimate recommendations, I am writing to request the Undergraduate Council and Council on Planning and Budget’s feedback concerning the proposed actions. The Graduate Council’s initial determination is that the proposals constitute “friendly” actions, as recommended by the Executive Board, in which case, we will invoke the procedures for an Alternative Dispute Resolution.

In order to proceed accordingly, I am writing to formally request your councils’ reviews and respectfully ask for your responses no later than Thursday, April 9, 2015 so that the Graduate Council can complete its review before its deadline to respond to the Executive Board by April 24, 2015. As noted in the Executive Board’s assignment letter, dated February 27, 2015, Associate Vice Chancellor Glyn Davies has been asked to provide a statement on the financial feasibility and impact of the proposals, which will be critical for the Council on Planning and Budget’s review.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via the Graduate Council’s policy analyst, Kyle Cunningham, at ext. 51162 or kcunningham@senate.ucla.edu. Thank you in advance for your input and contributions to this important process.

Sincerely,

Alex Bui, Chair
Graduate Council

Cc: Joel Aberbach, Chair, Academic Senate
Kyle Cunningham, Committee Analyst, Graduate Council
Glyn Davies, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Planning and Budget
Elizabeth Feller, Committee Analyst, Council on Planning and Budget
Linda Mohr, Interim CAO, Academic Senate
Matt Robinson, Committee Analyst, Undergraduate Council