March 25, 2013

Robert Powell
Chair, Academic Council

Re: Financial Aid Funding Options

Dear Bob,

Upon receipt of the proposed “University of California Financial Aid Funding Options” materials, I requested review by the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools (CUARS), the Undergraduate Council, and the Council on Planning and Budget. The Executive Board reviewed and discussed the responses from those committees along with the proposal. There is general consensus at UCLA that Option A is the best option.

Because Option A would engender improvements in the funding level for students from low-income families, improved access to the aid for students from middle-income families through the Blue and Gold “light” expansion, and a minimal increase for students coming from high-income families, this option appeared to best serve the needs of our students and address concerns of the faculty. We note, however, that the letter to the chancellors from Provost and Executive Vice President Dorr and Executive Vice President Brostrom indicates that in times of tuition freeze, the option selected would be suspended and the plan would default back to the status quo. This would result in the greatest penalty for students from low- and middle-income families. It was therefore suggested by the Council on Planning and Budget that if Option A is selected and if tuition remains frozen, the fallback position should not be the status quo, but rather Option C, which would result in a smaller penalty to students from low- and middle-income families than the status quo.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Linda Sarna
UCLA Academic Senate Chair

Cc: Martha Kendall Winnacker, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Jaime R. Balboa, Chief Administrative Officer, UCLA Academic Senate