June 5, 2014

William Jacob
Chair, UC Academic Council

RE: Compendium: Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units and Research Units (Updated)

Dear Bill:

The Executive Board of the UCLA Division considered the proposed changes to the Compendium at its May 29th meeting. Given the timing at the end of the academic year, responses from our committees were sparser than usual. In general, the response was favorable to most of the changes or they were deemed non-controversial.

The one part of the compendium that provoked committee responses as well as a discussion in the Executive Board had to do with MRUs and MRPs. The College FEC advocated strongly against accepting this section at all. It argued, and the Executive Board concurred, that it appears that a new entity, Multicampus Research Programs, is being defined. As the College’s letter highlighted, the solicitation letter stated that “It [the Compendium] reflects existing policies; it does not create or revise policy.” The College FEC also expressed concern that the proposed policies for MRPs represented a mismatch between those policies and the research across the campuses (and with international partners) that MRUs were meant to encourage. The Committee on Planning and Budget expressed concerns about both the planning of new MRUs and their exclusion from the Five-Year Planning Perspectives as well as the process for terminating them. The Executive Board agreed that more consultation and oversight ought to be required, especially from the host campuses. Although there was an appreciation that proposals for continuation of an MRU beyond 15 years included discussion of the MRU’s contributions to research, graduate and undergraduate education, and public service, the fact that those concerns were not included in the items enumerated under annual reports also reflected a disconnect, especially for particular types of MRUs, that might not serve them well in the reviews before a continuation review.

Despite our general enthusiasm for the new clarity that these revisions bring to other parts of the Compendium, the UCLA Division believes that these concerns about MRUs and MRPs need to be addressed before the revised document is approved.

Sincerely,

Jan Reiff
Chair, UCLA Division

Cc: Mary Gilly, Vice Chair, Academic Council
    Michael LaBriola, Principal Policy Analyst, Academic Senate
    Linda Mohr, CAO, UCLA Academic Senate
    Martha Kendall Winnacker, Executive Director, Academic Senate