

October 7, 2025

Megan McEvoy
Chair, Academic Senate

Dear Chair McEvoy,

I write to formally request that the Academic Senate take the lead in developing a framework to guide UCLA's approach to **selective preeminence across our academic programs**. As outlined in the thoughtful UCAD report, and as UCLA continues to advance its mission as a premier public research university, it is essential that we invest strategically in the areas where our academic strengths align most closely with societal needs.

Specifically, I ask the Senate to create a rubric for evaluating academic programs that can inform decisions about strategic investments. At a minimum, the rubric should consider:

- **Excellence of UCLA's programs:** demonstrated scholarly impact, teaching quality, student success, national and international reputation, and ability to attract external funding and partnerships.
- **Importance of the field to society:** the role of the discipline in addressing pressing social, economic, cultural, environmental, or technological challenges.
- **Cross-disciplinary impact:** the extent to which the program contributes to or enables research, teaching, and innovation across multiple fields.
- **Inclusive excellence:** how the program advances inclusion and opportunities for students from all backgrounds.
- **Sustainability:** the program's ability to maintain excellence and adapt to future challenges and opportunities.

The methodology for designing this rubric should rest with the Senate, and may involve engagement of its relevant committees. Our shared goal is to arrive at an initial framework that will help inform planning and resource allocation discussions. Given the upcoming budget cycle, I request that the Senate deliver this framework before the completion of the FY2026–27 budget meetings, which begin in early Winter 2026.

UCLA has long benefited from the faculty's vision and leadership in shaping the direction of the institution. I am confident that the Senate's guidance on selective preeminence will help ensure that our investments reflect both the university's highest standards and our public mission.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,

Darnell Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Cc: Kathleen Bawn, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Tim Groeling, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the EVCP