



January 15, 2020

To: Dylan Rodríguez, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Stefano Vidussi, Chair  
Committee on Educational Policy

Re: UCDC Center Review

The UCDC program is exceptional and a great asset of the UC system. We have read and review of the UC Washington Center and discussed the impact of the main recommendations on undergraduate education. We strongly support *Future Suggestion 11 – Secure Additional Student Funding*. Some issues described below were not addressed in the report and may have been overlooked in the analysis. If the administration of UCDC transitions from UCOP to a host campus, care should be taken to maintain the identity of UCDC as a systemwide program. Concerns were raised about how equitable access to the UCDC program across the campuses would be maintained if the Quota Model is eliminated. Few details were provided on what the replacement might be. If this recommendation is adopted, the new system should be fair both in access and cost allocation.

There are some issues related to the cost of participation and the gap between the total cost of staying on campus for the quarter and participating in UCDC that were not discussed in the report that make the gap even larger for some students. A significant fraction of UCR students must work part time to support themselves. For these students, participating in UCDC would require them to give up that income for a quarter. Many UCR students still live at home and commute to campus. Participating in UCDC would require an additional \$3500 beyond what they would pay to stay on campus living at home. Either of these two issues could easily prevent a student from participating in UCDC if the difference isn't covered by some other source of support.

Internships are at the core of the UCDC program. We believe there should be options for paid internships, especially for students who must cover a substantial cost gap to participate. We assume that most or all current internships are unpaid. This could be a way to share program costs with organizations that benefit from intern labor and be part of the solution to cover the participation cost gap for some students. If the number of paid internships is limited, a need-based selection could be used to allocate them.

We did not find any demographic data on the students that participate in UCDC. We would like to see demographic data as a whole and broken down by UC campus on ethnicity, gender, first generation status, low income status, and the fraction of students receiving Pell grants. A campus by campus comparison of these data for UCDC student with the data from the entire undergraduate population for a campus would give us a better understanding of whether financial and other barriers are negatively impacting access and diversity for the program.

A breakdown by major would also be interesting to see. Most internships are presumably in the areas of political science and public policy, for understandable reasons. There may be majors, such as art history, that would be well suited to the UCDC program but might not have many internship options. If that's the case, it would be beneficial to try to expand the internship options with this in mind. Having the breakdown by major would help identify which areas would benefit the most from this effort.