



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
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June 26, 2020

Dear Faculty Colleagues:

Thank you for your letters. Please know that we remain committed to doing everything we can to ensure that the rights, dignity and safety of every member of the UCLA community are protected without bias, discrimination or abuse. Much of the vital activism challenging racial discrimination and anti-Black abuse of policing power has been informed by years of scholarship and collaboration with faculty leaders at UCLA. We are open to the insights and ideas that you and others may have and stand ready to work with you on reimagining how we honor our commitments, including reimagining how we provide public safety to our campus community.

Achieving that will require broad consultation and careful evaluation. However, there are some changes we can commit to immediately.

First, UCLA will employ trained mental health professionals who can respond to mental health emergencies, either to support police officers on these calls or — if appropriate — to respond in place of officers. This approach has worked successfully in other communities and we expect it will better align our response to the situation.

Second, while use of force protocols must be carefully scrutinized and, if necessary, revised, UCLA PD has banned use of carotid holds, a practice not used in over 15 years. We will work with the police and the campus community to identify additional use of force policy changes to ensure that our policies conform to our principles of serving our community.

Moving forward, we will draw upon the extensive literature on best practices and constitutional policing, including the scholarship of our own faculty experts, to inform the work of our newly formed Public Safety Advisory Council, which will be chaired by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Monroe Gorden.

While you disagree with the formation of the council, we believe that a deliberative process that includes diverse voices will help us find the optimal path forward by reviewing scholarship, data, and new ideas that lead to a comprehensive approach to public safety at UCLA. This may even require a bold re-conceptualizing of how we provide public safety. The changes we seek could very well involve the kind of “restorative and transformative justice and community-led public safety” initiatives you mention. But these types of changes must come through the kind of careful evaluation, thoughtful collaboration and evidence-based decision-making that UCLA strives to champion and model.

While we are pleased to share these plans listed above and look forward to the council’s recommendations, we cannot defund and divest from all policing activity on campus or all coordination with local law enforcement. We have a responsibility to make our campus as safe a place as possible to teach, learn, live, work, research, assemble and even protest. At the same time, we also have a responsibility to keep all members of our community safe from racial discrimination or any other abuse of power. We are determined to honor both of those obligations.

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Until there are proven and effective alternative methods for ensuring public safety, we must cooperate with local law enforcement. For instance, during the 2016 shooting of Engineering Professor William Klug on our campus, we relied heavily upon support from LAPD and other local police departments when our campus was in lockdown, fearing a mass shooting incident that would put more lives at risk. In 2015, when student Andrea DeIvesco was murdered in her apartment before it was set on fire just a couple of blocks from campus, LAPD and other outside departments arrested those responsible.

Similarly, we rely upon UCPD for the public safety needs of our staff, faculty and students. Even though Westwood is a relatively safe neighborhood, in 2018, the most recent year for which crime statistics are currently available, UCPD logged 28 rapes, 11 robberies, 33 aggravated assaults and 143 burglaries on our campus and surrounding areas. We are hopeful that, working in collaboration with people across our community, our police department will continue its efforts to build the trust that will allow it to even better serve our campus.

Much of the information you requested about UCPD arrests and activities is publicly reported each year and available through the U.S. Department of Justice website:
<https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/exploration/crime-statistics/crimes-clearances>.

We have publicly expressed our [dismay and disapproval](#) of LAPD's use of Jackie Robinson Stadium to process arrestees on June 1. We have worked to compile a detailed timeline of events and are attaching it here, as you had requested. We are also committed to improving communications between outside police agencies, UCLA and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

On a related concern, the Office of the Dean of Students is not aware of any strike or demonstration-related conduct charges against any UCLA student resulting from Black Lives Matter or UC4COLA protests. If you have different information, please let us know and we will investigate immediately.

The times we are in represent a possibly unparalleled opportunity to ensure that an anti-racist ethic is embedded in the heart of our community and pervades the work of our institution. That is the UCLA that we want to help build. We invite you to be part of the process of making that happen and hope that together we can transform UCLA in powerful ways that will not only make all of us proud, but will benefit generations to come.

Sincerely,



Gene D. Block
Chancellor



Emily A. Carter
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Attachment