



**University Council-American Federation of Teachers  
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO**

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**Survey Shows Strong Rejection of UC Commission on  
the Future Recommendations**

**Alternative Commission Releases Proposals for Future of UC**

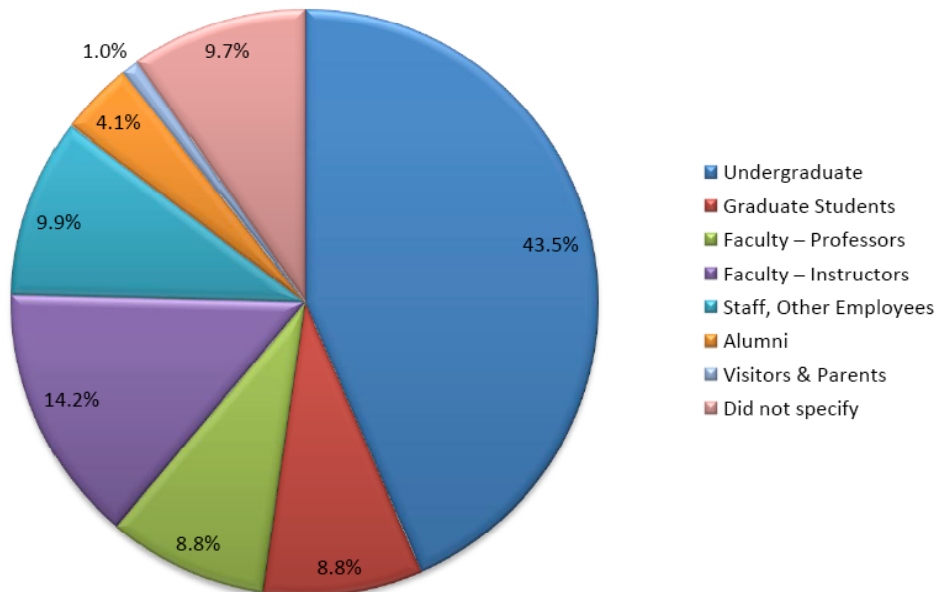
(Go to [ucaft.org](http://ucaft.org) to download the full report and recommendations)

**San Francisco-** As the UC Regents discussed proposals by the UC Commission on the Future that would respond to reduced state funds by reducing enrollments, increasing fees, and speeding up time to graduation, the Alternative Commission on the Future, a coalition of UC students, faculty, and workers, released a report entitled, *A Future for All*, which strongly rejects the UC Commission proposals. The Alternative Commission also released their own proposals, which aim to reinforce the ideals of the Master Plan.

Over 1000 UC students, faculty, workers and alumni completed a survey by the Alternative Commission, which asked respondents to grade the UC Commission proposals. The proposal with the highest grade was for 3-year degrees, which received a C-. The lowest graded proposal, for a 10% reduction in teaching staff, received an F.

UC-AFT President and UCLA Writing Programs Lecturer, Bob Samuels, who has been working with the Alternative Commission, presented the survey results at today’s Regent’s meeting. Samuels described the survey results this way, "It is clear that most students, faculty, and workers feel excluded from the commission, and do not agree with most, if not all, of the recommendations. The people on the ground reject the move to online education, sped-up degrees, and out-of-state students. What people do want is a more democratic and transparent system that actively defends the vision of the master plan."

**Participants in the Survey**



The UC Commission solicited responses to their [first round recommendations](#) through its [website](#) and some campus forums. Many faculty and students are frustrated that their responses have not been adequately incorporated into the UC Commission recommendations.

Holly Craig-Wehrle is a UCLA undergraduate who has been working with the Alternative Commission for the Future of UC. Craig-Wehrle has experienced the impacts of reduced course offerings, increased class size, and increased fees. According to Craig-Wehrle the regents have ignored public comment on the future of UC, "Without a doubt, the survey has shown that students, faculty, and staff overwhelmingly feel that they have no influence over the decisions that most deeply affect them. In their latest round of proposals, the UC Regents are revealing the grave extent to which they are out of touch with the needs and desires of the University's stakeholders. If nothing else, this survey presents to the Regents the very input they declined to aggressively pursue. Student, staff, and faculty opinions, ideas, and frustrations are given voice - now the Regents must decide if they will continue to ignore the cries of those they were appointed to represent."

The UC Commission released its [second round of proposals on June 14](#). The second round proposals promote some highly controversial recommendations from the first round. A pilot program for on-line courses has drawn a lot of criticism. One survey respondent addressed the on-line proposal this way, "In the ten years that I've been at UCLA, first as a graduate student and then as a lecturer, I have continually seen money taken away from programs, I have seen graduate support cut, and, at the same time, I have seen buildings continually being built and rebuilt, and now I hear that the purpose of this is so that we can switch over to online classes."

Another major theme in the responses to the Alternative Commission survey was the lack of transparency in the UC budget and decision making process. 62% of survey respondents gave a grade of D or F when asked about transparency and accountability with the UC administration.

Robert Williams, a UC parent and Professor in the History of Art and Architecture at UCSB, believes that solicitations of opinions by the UC Commission are a farce. "From the beginning, the Commission on the Future has been a sham, an exercise in fake transparency," said Williams. "It has made a show of gathering opinions from the entire UC community, but its real purpose is simply to prepare the way for UCOP-sponsored initiatives, as has been repeatedly proven by the fact that even when the proposals encounter resistance among the faculty, UCOP makes clear that it intends to proceed with them anyway."

The UC Commission will continue to collect responses to their second round recommendations before making final recommendations to the Board of Regents in the fall. Responses to the UC Commission on the Future recommendations are not public and therefore are not available for broader community discussion.

The Alternative Commission on the Future of UC plans to continue to pressure the Regents, the UC Office of the President, and the UC Commission on the Future to use the core ideals of the 1960 Master Plan to guide their recommendations. The Alternative Commission has released counter proposals that they believe will increase revenue for UC through increased enrollments, save money through reductions in administration and other efficiencies, and improve the quality of education at UC by prioritizing instruction. The Alternative Commission has posted their report and recommendations, all written responses, and a full analysis of their survey on the [UC-AFT website](#).

