FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GSA Presidential Statement on Allegations of SFAC Bylaw Violations by Chancellor Block

May 29th, 2019 --- Over the course of the past academic year, there have been numerous allegations at public meetings of potential violations of the UCLA Student Fee Advisory Committee Bylaws (SFAC) By Chancellor Gene D. Block.

Specifically, multiple SFAC graduate student representatives have alleged that Chancellor Block routinely took several weeks longer than the two weeks the SFAC Bylaws allow to confirm student appointments. Graduate student representatives also made allegations that Chancellor Block unduly disapproved and illegitimately vetoed an amendment strengthening protections against conflicts of interest after a supermajority of committee members approved such protections in spring 2017.

In light of these allegations I reached out to Chancellor Block in April and invited him to attend a meeting of the GSA Forum to answer questions and provide clarification on this matter. Chancellor Block has stated that he is unwilling to meet with the GSA Forum to discuss this matter. Chancellor Block has expressed his willingness to meet with SFAC and answer questions, but as far as I know he has not yet proposed a date or timeline for such an opportunity in the four weeks since he expressed openness to answering questions.

GSA is responsible for nominating all graduate student representatives to SFAC, and the GSA has an obligation to ensure the equitable and fair allocation of student fees on behalf of all graduate students through the process outlined in the SFAC Bylaws. I am committed to keeping the GSA Forum updated on the status of this matter, and I will provide any relevant updates to the Forum at the first meeting of the 2019-2020 school year.

All allegations of known or suspected improper governmental activity must be handled seriously in compliance with the University’s policies. More information about how to report such allegations can be found at https://compliance.ucla.edu/report-a-concern.

Sincerely,
Zak Fisher