

Thank you for the response. The University will offer feedback on each point.

1. Voting – The Berkeley lecturers can vote, as per your local union policy, but the University must have a decision by the end of this week (April 22nd). A rejection of the side letter will mean immediate decisions must be made for Academic Year 2016-2017 and reduction in time notices would need to be issued by May 1st. The only exception the University may be able to make is if the UC-AFT would allow for a 45 day notice, rather than a 60 day notice. If the campus had until May 15th to issue notices, we could extend the period of time to vote.
2. Budgets – The campus does not have budget information yet. Budgets were due a few weeks ago, but the outcome of the requests may not be known until June or July. The University can provide, in response to a request for information, budget summaries once budget decisions have been made. In any event, the University is unlikely to be able to produce any budget information prior to a vote.
3. Fully Funded Language Programs – The University cannot commit to this provision in your counter. However, the side letter offers both parties the ability to work through how to continue programs. The union has the opportunity to have a role in the process, which it does not have now.
4. Program Level Committees – As a clarification, the University has anticipated program level discussions as part of the campus-wide process. In other words, the campus-wide committee will hold a meeting with the agenda pre-determined on which programs will be discussed. It is expected that lecturers from programs will attend along with program directors, but as part of the process, not as a sub-committee process. The University would be flexible on allowing for guests, provided there is a consistent number of permanent committee members.

In order to get closer, the University would be willing to modify the structure of the Section 2 – Application of Article 24: A. 1. Rather than exchanging a list of courses, the discussion could be about the actual attributes for a course that meets the 5 workload full time criteria. This would limit the issues reviewed by the Facilitator.

The University sees the side letter processes as a partnership with the UC-AFT on moving forward to work through the workload changes. We've offered processes to ensure dialogue and exchange takes place with the goal of agreement. That is the spirit in which the side letter is offered.