

April 20, 2021

To: Shane White, Chair  
Academic Senate

Re: **Systemwide Review: Police Policies and Administrative Procedures**

The Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has chosen not to comment on specific aspects of the Police Policies and Administrative Procedures proposals. To do so, the Committee members feel, would be tacitly to validate the process through which these documents were generated and also to deflect attention from the larger context in which campus policing issues can most fruitfully be considered. With regard to the process, it appears that most University of California stakeholders were not represented in the deliberations that led to these proposals. Of particular relevance to the Academic Senate, what was the extent of faculty input? Presenting these proposals without an open and thorough discussion by the diverse members of the UC community who will be directly affected by them will likely reinforce anxieties held by many regarding a lack of transparency, openness, and willingness to collaborate on the part of UC policing policymakers. Indeed, the extent to which feedback from the Academic Senate can have any impact whatsoever on these proposals at this point is unclear.

Furthermore, as currently framed, these proposals appear to be founded on assumptions about security, the role of police on campus, and the viability of alternative ways to ensure campus safety that have been called into serious question, particularly over the past few years. CODEI believes that it would be unfortunate if the Academic Senate failed to take this opportunity to emphasize the need to address the issue of campus policing not in terms of specific, micro-level practices regarding force, body cameras, response teams, concealed-carry weapons, and the like but rather through a wide-ranging and inevitably difficult series of conversations about the security needs of the UC community at large. Such exchanges would engage topics such as anti-bias training for UC police, the relationship of UC Police to the Los Angeles Police Department and to the Department of Homeland Security, the use of de-escalation techniques, and even the very need for armed police officers on UC campuses.

As does the Graduate Council in its response, we would call attention to the recent announcement issued by Chancellor Block titled “Charting a New Course for Public Safety at UCLA.” The “community conversations” that the just-created University task force will sponsor and the fact-finding research that it will conduct can constitute crucial steps that must be taken before we would be in a position to evaluate responsibly the type of policing policy proposals on which the Academic Senate has been invited to comment.

We appreciate being given the opportunity to comment on this issue at this time and look forward to extensive engagement with the issue over the coming months and years. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [yarborou@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:yarborou@humnet.ucla.edu) or the Interim Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Analyst, Taylor Lane Daymude at [tlanedaymude@senate.ucla.edu](mailto:tlanedaymude@senate.ucla.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard Yarborough". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Professor Richard Yarborough, Chair  
Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion