

June 15, 2021

Emily Carter
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Re: Campus Governance

Dear EVCP Carter,

At its meeting on June 3, 2021, the Executive Board reviewed the attached letter of May 24, 2021, from the Council on Research (COR) expressing their concerns regarding the Health System's governance following a meeting among DGSOM VDR Steven Smale and COR leadership on April 26, 2021, to discuss issues surrounding a unilateral imposition of scientific review by the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) leadership through their Scientific Review Committee (SRC). I have previously written to you about the issue of Health System's scientific review mandate, but this letter addresses a different topic, that of campus governance.

At the April 26 meeting, VDR Smale informed COR Chair Martinez and COR Vice Chair Iacoboni that the Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) does not oversee patient privacy policies, and as a result, notwithstanding the federally defined role of the IRB, the health system may mandate its own scientific review to ensure patient privacy and safety. As represented by VDR Smale, the Health System appeared to believe it had the authority to set up a review process outside the purview of the VCR and the Academic Senate. When this was discussed at the May 12, 2021 COR meeting, members found this deeply problematic, and the above referenced letter of May 24 was transmitted to the Executive Board.

According to Regents' Bylaw 40.1, the Academic Senate has the responsibility to ensure the quality of instruction, research, and public service at the University and to protect academic freedom. The above refusal to engage the Academic Senate prevents it from fulfilling its duties in ensuring the quality of research and in protecting academic freedom. Failure of the Health System to engage with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research & Creative Activities (ORCA) or the Academic Senate when making a unilateral mandate undercuts campus governance, and undermines your and the Chancellor's Offices.

It is with regret that that I bring this matter to your attention. Perhaps VDR Smale overstated his position, or failed at that moment to appreciate the mechanisms of campus governance. Nonetheless, the incident cannot be overlooked. I look forward to your response, and to ensuring that such incidents are not repeated.

Sincerely,

Shane White
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

cc: Gene Block, Chancellor
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Elizabeth Feller, Principal Policy Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate
Marco Iacoboni, Council on Research Vice Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
Jody Kreiman, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Julian Martinez, Council on Research Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
Michael Meranze, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the EVCP
Roger Wakimoto, Vice Chancellor for Research and Creative Activities