

January 21, 2022

To: Jody Kreiman, Chair, Academic Senate

From: Kathleen Bawn, Chair, Undergraduate Council

**Re: Systemwide Senate Review: Recommendations for Department Political Statements**

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At its meeting on January 7, 2022, the Undergraduate Council reviewed the Recommendations for Department Political Statements issued by the University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF).

Members were sympathetic to the recommendation to ensure transparency in the process through which department political statements are crafted. The posting of political statements, members felt, should be equally transparent: disclaimers should not simply exist on a website and be impossible to find. Posted statements should be an exercise of free speech without having a chilling effect on that of others.

Thank you for the opportunity to opine. If you have any questions, please contact me via the Undergraduate Council's analyst, Julia Nelsen, at [jnelsen@senate.ucla.edu](mailto:jnelsen@senate.ucla.edu).

CC: Jessica Cattelino, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate  
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate  
Julia Nelsen, Committee Analyst, Undergraduate Council  
Peter Petersen, Vice Chair, Undergraduate Council  
Shane White, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate