

January 27, 2022

To: Jody Kreiman, Chair
Academic Senate

From: Carson T. Schutze, Chair
Faculty Welfare Committee

Re: Systemwide Senate Review: Recommendations for Department Political Statements

Dear Chair Kreiman,

At its meeting on January 13, 2022, the Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC) reviewed and discussed the Systemwide Recommendations for Department Political Statements. Members offered the following comments.

Members were in support of recommendation #1 but expressed reservations on recommendation #2.

“Recommendation #2: When a department chooses to issue or endorse a statement with regard to any commercial, religious, or political activity or issue, it should indicate in some manner whose views within the department the statement represents. In addition, departments should ensure that minority viewpoints are provided a reasonable and proportionate opportunity to express their views on the same platform as the departmental statement.”

Members noted that the meaning of “proportionate opportunity” is unclear; what is it intended to mean? That the number of people holding each viewpoint should be proportionate to the amount of space occupied by the statement of their viewpoint (e.g. on a department website)? Or does proportionate refer to the relative length of time for which the various viewpoints must be posted? Etc.

Additionally, some members expressed concerns over departments issuing a proclamation which may have an intimidating effect on those who disagree. Finally, members suggested that it might be helpful to clarify, when statements are issued/signed by a chair, whether they represent solely the chair's point of view or whose views they represent. This might be addressed by inserting in the first sentence of Recommendation #2 “or its leaders” after the first three words “When a department”.

Thank you for the opportunity to review.

cc: Jessica Cattelino, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
Shane White, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Elizabeth Feller, Assistant Director, Academic Senate
Renee Rouzan-Kay, Senior Policy Analyst, Faculty Welfare Committee
Members of the Faculty Welfare Committee