

February 24, 2022

To: Jody Kreiman, Chair
UCLA Academic Senate

Re: Systemwide Senate Review- Recommendations for Department Political Statements

Dear Chair Kreiman,

At its meeting on February 14, 2022, the Committee on Diversity Equity and Inclusion (CODEI) reviewed and discussed the Recommendations for Departmental Political Statements.

It was agreed that Departments should not be commenting on issues on behalf of others, but the length as to what Departments can comment on requires further discussion. Committee members share a general sentiment that the policy should be avoided as a Department's political support statement should not be sparrd down to identify individuals nor implicitly or clandestinely used as a measurement stick in departmental reviews of academic personnel actions.

The committee feels the proposed recommendations do not support UCLA's ideas and efforts in regards to Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity. Due to its large impact on Academic Freedom, the committee believes this topic deserves further consideration. This position encourages like minded faculty on political issues, across a campus, to gather and express their opinions, analyses, and positions on issues, as public intellectuals, as a way of promoting discussions and exchange of views on these political issues, including petitioning the Regents on these issues regards their public actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this policy. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at reynaldo@chavez.ucla.edu or the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Analyst, Lilia Valdez at lvaldez@senate.ucla.edu.

Sincerely,



Professor Reynaldo Macias, Chair
Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
UCLA Academic Senate