

October 16, 2023

James Steintrager
Chair, UC Academic Senate

Re: (Second Systemwide Senate Review) Presidential Policy on Affiliations with Certain Healthcare Organizations

Dear Chair Steintrager,

The divisional Executive Board (EB) appreciated the opportunity to review the proposed revisions to (Systemwide Senate Review) Presidential Policy on Affiliations with Certain Healthcare Organizations. EB reviewed the proposal and divisional committee and council responses at its meeting on October 12, 2023. Member voted unanimously in favor of a motion to not endorse the proposed revision and share the ongoing concerns of the Division. They noted that the comments below relate to the proposed policy, but nonetheless remain concerned about access to high quality care for UC colleagues whose only option may be such affiliates.

Members acknowledged that EB had endorsed the previous version of the proposed policy. They concluded that the latest revision seems to weaken the policy in significant ways: it eliminated the explicit refusal of religious-based policies; placed the burden to ensure accountability on students who are themselves a vulnerable population in these settings; diminishes the ability of patients, students and researchers to access full reproductive and gender-affirming care and procedures; consolidates power into the leadership of UC health; and provides no enforcement mechanisms to hold affiliation partners accountable. Most of the divisional responses during the previous review spoke to strengthening the policy; this revision weakens it.

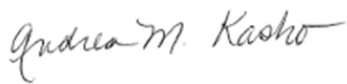
Members affirmed the UC academic mission of teaching, research, and service as a public university. They raised questions about the differences between providing services and performing procedures. Divisions had wanted to see these distinctions addressed as well as assurances that UCLA medical staff could provide procedures. Members noted that the proposed policy explicitly stated that training of UC health education would not limit students so that they get the full breadth of their education. The policy also states that the program decides where students go for training. If the student finds the assigned location objectionable then the burden is on the student to find a different location. This scenario is highly problematic. Students do not have this power. Members advised that the burden should be on the program rather than on the student for a full healthcare education. Members suggested that the policy clarify that it is incumbent on the people making the assignments to ensure that students have access to the full spectrum of training. To not allow students to perform procedures required by the state to provide would be a dereliction of the university's mission to the state of California.

Further, they noted that the policy was very vague about what constituted an emergency that would allow UCLA medical staff to perform certain procedures. They also expressed concern that the onus was on front line and junior staff. Members affirmed the importance of the provider/doctor making a decision about what constituted an emergency rather than a compliance officer or administrator making the determination. Moreover, members observed that in order to perform the procedures in case of emergency the appropriate equipment, medicine, etc. should be available. The current policy indicates that if an affiliate location does not currently have the equipment or medicine, they do not need to have it available. Members advised that this aspect of the policy needs to change.

Members worried that it would be discriminatory to only provide long-term contraception after giving birth but not under other circumstances. They questioned whether assigning LGBTQ+ students to openly hostile institutions would be problematic if not discriminatory as well.

Lastly, members asked for clarification of section 3.B.3 as the current text was subject to contradictory interpretations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea M. Kasko".

Andrea Kasko
Chair
UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate