

November 2, 2023

To: Andrea Kasko, Chair  
Academic Senate

Re: **UCLA Policy: Public and Discretionary Statements by Academic Campus Units**

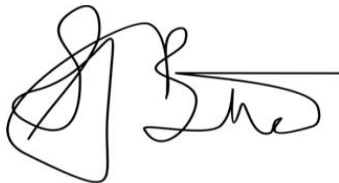
Dear Chair Kasko,

The Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC) circulated the UCLA Policy: Public Discretionary Statements by Academic Campus Units as an independent review. Members offered the following comments.

FWC members noted that the proposed policy is filled with many legalities, is confusing, and the points outlined appear contradictory. Public statements were defined as “part of the day-to-day, term-to-term operations of the Academic Campus Unit.” In contrast, discretionary statements were considered “not part of the day-to-day, term-to-term operations of the unit.” However, the term “Public Statement” is stated also to include discretionary statements (p2). How is this possible? Others thought that units should be generally dissuaded from using discretionary statements to weigh in on events beyond the scope and knowledge of the unit. Second, it remains unclear how this policy will achieve its goal of “protect(ing) members of an Academic Campus Unit from being misrepresented or misunderstood to endorse a point that they have not chosen to endorse.” If everyone is expected to comment or not comment. In that case, there remains considerable concern about bullying and pressure on the faculty, by students or peers, to agree or disagree with the discretionary statement, which goes beyond our role as educators and researchers. Third, some members felt that there should be a requirement that all discretionary statements posted by an academic unit or sub-unit require a unanimous vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed policy. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [butlersj@ucla.edu](mailto:butlersj@ucla.edu) or via the Committee analyst, Renee Rouzan-Kay, at [rrouzankay@senate.ucla.edu](mailto:rrouzankay@senate.ucla.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Butler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Samantha Butler, Chair  
Faculty Welfare Committee

cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/ Chair-Elect, Academic Senate

Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate

April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate

Renee Rouzan-Kay, Senior Policy Analyst, Faculty Welfare Committee

Members of the Faculty Welfare Committee