

November 3, 2023

To: Andrea Kasko, Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

From: Brooke Scelza, Chair, Graduate Council

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

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At its meeting on October 27, 2023, the Graduate Council reviewed and discussed the draft *UCLA Policy: Public and Discretionary Statements by Academic Campus Units* and offers the following observations for the Executive Board's consideration:

Members discussed the potential overreach of the university and underscored the ability of campus academic units to develop their own policies. Some members also commented on the potential impact on academic freedom and sought clarification on the broad nature of the voting requirements to issue public and discretionary statements (e.g., the policy requires staff, post-docs and others not typically given voting rights to vote on the statement—see sections 1.iii and 1.iv)

One member noted that the potential members of the Academic Campus Unit are categorized by positions of employment. Some members had questions regarding graduate students who are not employed by the department. The current draft gives rights to graduate student employees only, but nothing in section 1.iv identifies graduate students at large as being part of the Academic Campus Unit.

Some members noted that the draft policy was timely and there was a benefit to having a clear process.

Some members had concerns regarding minority voices and appreciated that the policy considered situations in cases where academic units are split and aimed to protect members' views from being misrepresented.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this matter. If you have any questions, please contact us via Graduate Council Analyst, Emily Le, at [ele@senate.ucla.edu](mailto:ele@senate.ucla.edu).