

November 8, 2023

To: Andrea Kasko, Chair
UCLA Academic Senate

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

At the November 7, 2023 meeting, the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion discussed the proposed UCLA Policy on Public and Discretionary Statements by Academic Campus Units. During this discussion, members shared various concerns.

Some members noted that it would not be appropriate for academic campus units to make statements that do not represent the ideas of everyone in the unit. Similarly, there was some concern regarding the qualifications of academic campus units to make statements on items that are outside of their areas of expertise. The proposed policy does not provide adequate guidance to ensure that the statements made satisfy the standard established through this policy. Members also mentioned that the policy as written would be difficult to implement and monitor.

Members made a point to discuss the freedoms that faculty have, both as individuals and as groups of individuals, to make statements that do not represent the full academic campus unit. Some members also expressed the idea that the institution should strive to be non-partisan, and allowing for such statements on behalf of full units would present issues to both the institution and its faculty.

Some members had concerns that the timing of this policy could cause some concerns among campus groups. Though some members agreed with the purpose of the policy, they found that now might not be the best time to implement new standards.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (thall@mednet.ucla.edu) or Academic Senate Policy Analyst, Lilia Valdez (lvaldez@senate.ucla.edu).

Sincerely,



Theodore Hall, Chair
Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

cc: Kathy Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Lilia Valdez, Senior Policy Analyst, UCLA Academic Senate
Members of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion