

November 13, 2023

Darnell Hunt
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

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

Dear Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Hunt,

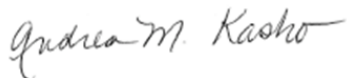
At the November 9, 2023, meeting of the Executive Board, members reviewed the proposed UCLA Policy XXX: Public and Discretionary Statements by Academic Campus Units and the feedback of divisional Academic Senate committees and councils. Members expressed appreciation for the task force's efforts with such an extraordinarily difficult task and recognize that guidance on statements is needed. However, the Executive Board finds the existing Systemwide Academic Senate guidance that advises departments to create an agreed upon process before issuing any statements to be sufficient, and members voted to reject the proposed policy that creates an intermediary level (a policy for making policies) as unnecessary.

The Executive Board members noted that many of the divisional committees and councils expressed serious concerns about the draft policy including a lack of clarity about the intent and goals. Some members agreed that the policy was a good idea, but the actual draft language was confusing at best such as the effort to define a public statement. Other members expressed skepticism about the need for a campus policy. Several members noted that having an overarching policy during fraught times may offer some guidance for departments; they suggested that larger institutional guardrails could be useful.

Members were enthusiastic about the recommendation by the divisional Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction (CR&J) for inclusion of the June 2022 UC Academic Council endorsement of the May 2022 University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) recommendations and the UC Regents Policy 4403: Statement of Principles Against Intolerance in the UCLA Policy document and that Section I. Purpose and Scope clarify that the UCLA policy is a divisional implementation of existing systemwide policies and recommendations. Executive Board members observed that the existing UCAF recommendations seemed simpler and with more encompassing language. In short, there is an existing model that seems to work. Members affirmed the basic ability of groups to make statements and raise concerns, and suggest encouragement for academic units to review their bylaws and make local policy.

The Academic Senate appreciates the opportunity to advise on this important policy proposal.

Sincerely,



Andrea Kasko

Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Gene Block, Chancellor, UCLA
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Yolanda Gorman, Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the Chancellor, UCLA
Anna Joyce, Director of Administrative Policies and Strategic Initiatives, UCLA
Emily Rose, Assistant Provost and Chief of Staff to the EVCP, UCLA