

January 30, 2024

Andrea Kasko, Chair
Academic Senate

Re: Proposed Revisions to UCLA Policy 740: Purchasing Goods and Services

Dear Chair Kasko,

At its meeting on January 10, 2024, the Council on Research (COR) reviewed and discussed the proposed revisions to UCLA Policy 740: Purchasing Goods and Services. Members offered the following comments.

Members noted several unresolved challenges with software license acquisition at UCLA. There is a limited catalog of software licenses available for purchase and the procurement process is arduous for faculty and administrative staff. In addition, there are currently no exceptions granted for reimbursements to faculty who have no option but to purchase specialized research software with personal funds.

While members acknowledge the need to monitor systems, protect intellectual property, and the importance of cyber security at the UC, they respectfully urge the University to take action and help alleviate the administrative barriers to software purchases, which hinder research flexibility for many faculty on campus.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. If you have any questions for us, please do not hesitate to contact me at asampath@jsei.ucla.edu or via the Council's analyst, Elizabeth Feller, at efeller@senate.ucla.edu.

Sincerely,

Alapakkam Sampath, Chair
Council on Research

cc: Kathy Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Elizabeth Feller, Associate Director, Academic Senate
Adriana Rosalez, Administrative Analyst, Academic Senate
Members of the Council on Research