Re: Proposed UCLA Time Place and Manner Policies

At its meeting on February 14, 2024, the Committee on Privilege & Tenure (P&T) had an opportunity to discuss the Executive Board’s request for advisement on a set of UCLA Policies deemed as “Use Policies” or “Time Place and Manner Policies.” These proposed policies include: General Use of University Property (with definitions); Public Expression Activities Policy (with Map of Areas for Public Expression Activities); and Organized Events. Many of the elements of the proposed “General Use of University Property” (General Use) parallel Regents “Regulations Governing Conduct of Non-Affiliates in the Buildings and on the Grounds of the University of California.” The General Use proposed policy, however, is more expansive and applies equally to students and employees, including faculty. According to the introduction: “The Use Policies are designed to protect and promote the rights of members of the University, prevent interference with UCLA functions or activities, and assure compliance with all pertinent laws and other applicable University Policies.”

The proposed policy is relatively straightforward but with some ambiguities which we address below. Committee members agreed in general that faculty have a right to expect general protection in order to carry out their work. Insofar as this policy is intended to ensure personal safety of University students and employees, members are supportive of the detailed lists of the “Strictly Prohibited” list. Members are hopeful this signals that there will be more enforcement of “non-affiliates” who not only camp out on University property, but become a threat to persons or property. One objection to this list is the inclusion of marijuana and other tobacco products. For one, many faculty conduct research involving cannabis and tobacco products. In addition, it is unclear if the University’s non-smoking policy, which was passed several years ago, includes marijuana, which was not legal at that time.

Members also found that the proposed policy may already be out-of-date owing to recent experience with (a) COVID and how the need for appropriate preventative health measures may change the guidelines; (b) strikes and union activities that sometimes present a physical threat to faculty, staff, and students; (c) physical security for individual faculty, staff, and students that sometimes accompanies
major events (vs the emphasis on disrupting an event); (d) the policy does not address continued
diversification of work sites associated with the campus through satellite medical facilities and new
locations ranging from downtown to the Westside Pavilion and all of the implications for freedom of
expression and safety; and (e) increased use of remote communications via Zoom for academic and non-
academic events, including (but not limited to) the potential for disruption such as "Zoom bombing" and
other activities which, had they occurred in person, could be considered equally disrupting and/or
threatening.

As mentioned above, Regents regulations (and possibly existing laws) already allow exclusion of
Non-Affiliates for the reasons articulated in this proposed policy. Members were concerned about
provisions discussing enforcement for faculty and a risk of possible arbitrary enforcement. According to
the proposed policy, if the Vice Chancellor Academic Personnel (Chancellor’s designee for Faculty and
Emeriti Faculty) determines there is reasonable cause to believe (a very low standard of proof) the
individual has Willfully Disrupted the orderly operation of the campus or University Property, individuals
may be excluded from University Property campus for up to fourteen (14) calendar days. Individuals
may request a hearing before the Administrative Vice Chancellor; if requested, the hearing must be held
within seven (7) days. In addition to exclusion, the policy indicates the possibility that faculty might be
subject to discipline if they are deemed to have violated the policy: “Violation of University or UCLA
policies may subject a person to legal penalties; if the person is a Student or Employee of the University,
that person may also be subject to discipline in accordance with University and UCLA policies.” It is
unclear who would decide that policy had been violated and what standard would be used. Exclusion,
presumably used for safety reasons, only requires “reasonable cause to believe” there was a willful
disruption. Members also thought there should be clarification as to when “willful disruption” becomes
subject to police intervention rather than a determination by the Chancellor.

Members had concerns about the use of the word “obligation” for event organizers and senior
administrators, who are required to “promptly alert the Administrative Vice Chancellor (“AVC”) at
adminvc@ucla.edu or UCPD” if they become “aware of a possible demonstration likely to occur at the
Major Event.” The provision claims that the “reporting obligation” arises from a recommendation from
the Edley-Robinson Report (2012), a 158-page report written in response to physical altercations
between police and protestors on UC Davis and Berkeley campuses. That report, however, encourages
communication by organizers and senior administrators with potential protestors in positive terms (p.
56 ff) as part of efforts to prevent clashes or police intervention during a protest. Nowhere does it
recommend an enforced reporting “obligation.” This seems heavy-handed, especially since it could
apparently be enforced even for a “possible” demonstration and could lead to a culture of suspicion and
accusation rather than the dialogue that is encouraged in the Edley-Robinson Report.

Members had a few other concerns not directly related to faculty rights which we list here:
Whether University employees and students should have the same speech restrictions as Non-Affiliates;
the policies seem more focused on disruptions of protests and protection of campus structures than on
safety; there four areas that allow public expressions do not include any designated areas near south
campus/ the medical complex; It is unclear why up to $1,000,000 per year is dedicated to RCO or
University Unit sponsored event security and only $250,000 to host a free speech related event by a Non-Affiliate. Arguably, Non-Affiliate events might carry a higher security risk.

In addition to the above comments, members had some recommendations:

- The Administration should provide clarity on how they propose to enforce this consistently.
- The Administration should also provide some actual examples of incidents with an explanation of why other policies are insufficient and how the particulars in this policy will help.
- How will responsible parties differentiate between a threat and simple harassment? Some faculty, for example, felt harassed to sign petitions or to take part in an action. When might this become disruptive or a threat? There is also no mention at all of hate speech. There should be a better definition of a threat.
- There should be a clear clause that protects faculty rights.

If you have any questions for us, please do not hesitate to contact me at dmessadi@dentistry.ucla.edu or via the Committee’s analyst, Marian Olivas, at molivas@senate.ucla.edu.

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