To: Andrea Kasko, Chair, Academic Senate

From: Shane White, Chair, Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction

Date: February 26, 2024

Re: (Systemwide Senate Review) Proposed Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites

The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction (CR&J) reviewed the proposed Regents Policy on use of University administrative websites.

Discovering, advancing, and transmitting knowledge is the central pervasive mission of the University of California.¹ Members found the proposed limitations to disseminate knowledge contradictory with the University’s mission, as faculty’s research and views intrinsically intersect. Members found the existing UCLA Policy on public and discretionary statements by academic campus units² and the University Committee on Academic Freedom’s recommendations for department political statements³ to reasonably balance academic freedom, freedom of speech, and accountability.

Members commented that the term “official channels of communication” was vague. Do these limitations apply to departmental social media (e.g., X, Instagram) and departmental newsletters and emails?

Members also commented that the policy does not establish who determines the “official views of the University” or Unit. Related, who assumes responsibility if a challenge is upheld by University authorities or the judiciary, necessitating punitive action?

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at snwhite@dentistry.ucla.edu or via the Committee’s analyst, Lori Ishimaru, at lishimaru@senate.ucla.edu.

cc: Kathleen Bawn, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate
Jessica Cattelino, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Lori Ishimaru, Senior Policy Analyst, Academic Senate
Members of the Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction

¹ https://www.ucop.edu/about/mission/
³ https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/rh-senate-divs-recs-for-dept-statements.pdf