UCLA *Academic Senate*

April 20, 2017

Jim Chalfant
Chair, Academic Council

RE: Systemwide Review: Draft Presidential Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Policy

Dear Jim,

The Executive Board of the UCLA Academic Senate solicited comments on the Draft Presidential Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Policy from the standing committees of the Senate; the individual responses from our various committees are available online.

Members of the Executive Board echoed concerns raised by the various committees. Some of the concerns are as follows:

Several committees had concerns regarding the process of UC approval for using a drone. It is unclear who the designated authority is and the process for approval, including the procedure for evaluation (see Committee on Instruction and Technology (CIT) and Undergraduate Council (UgC) memos). Further, the CIT believes that the "requirement to seek university approval (when off campus) beyond what is already mandated by local and federal regulations (e.g., registration, no fly zones) seems unnecessarily onerous, and may, in fact, slow research efforts."

The UgC "is not supportive of the proposed regulations for activities that occur off campus." Moreover, although "the use of UAS has outpaced their regulation" the UgC "hesitate to hastily create too many levels of bureaucracy that might hamper research productivity without ample reason or justification." The UgC also solicited feedback from the Department of Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences (EPSS), which is included with UgC's response.

The Graduate Council believes the impact on graduate students would make it more difficult to carry out their work.

The Executive Board appreciates the opportunity to opine. Please feel free to contact me should have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

cc: Hilary Baxter, Executive Director, Systemwide Academic Senate
        Leo Estrada, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
        Sandra Graham, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
        Michael LaBriola, Principal Policy Analyst, Systemwide Academic Senate
        Linda Mohr, Chief Administrative Officer, UCLA Academic Senate
        Shane White, Vice Chair, Academic Council