

Executive Board

UCLA Time, Place, and Manner Policies

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January 28, 2025

Message and questions from VC Beck re TPM Discussion:

We have been seriously considering the feedback from the Academic Senate and others across campus, including the possibility of opening up more portions of the campus that would be open for expressive activities without a permit, as a result many of our questions may no longer be relevant. However, here are some for consideration. Generally, the overall question that we have is how much disruption to instruction should we be willing to accept, and are there some forms of expressive activity that AS would support limiting? And when?

- In the AS comments, some faculty were concerned about strikes and union activities that sometimes present a physical threat to faculty, staff and students. How can TPM policies help minimize these threats? Where should the designated areas for public expression be located- across all outdoor areas, outside of all buildings? If there are restrictions on where not to demonstrate, does the AS have suggestions on how to gain compliance with the policies?
- AS comment: “there must be no suppression of speech on campus.” Is the AS suggesting that there should be no policies associated with time, place, and manner for any and all expressive activities? If not, what does the AS consider as acceptable limitations?
- If most outdoor spaces are made available for public expression without prior approval, how do we avoid the disruption to instruction? How much disruptions are we willing to accept?
- In the AS comments, some faculty felt harassed to sign petitions or take part in an action. How can we address this concern? How do we minimize this or do we allow for non-commercial literature be distributed in all areas of campus regardless of some faculty concerns? Should non-commercial literature be allowed to be distributed in all outdoor areas or should distribution be limited to designated public expression areas??
- If amplified sound is not restricted, and if we have demonstrations in most areas on campus, what level of disruption to campus activities is okay? Should administration intervene if there is a complaint about the noise? Or is there another threshold that can determine intervention of noise/ campus disruption?
- There was a concern expressed about the caps associated with security costs that the university is willing to cover for major events. If the current limits and categories are too low, how much money should the university be willing to spend during an academic year to cover these costs, which means those funds cannot be used for other uses?
- Should there be more restrictive rules associated with expressive activity during finals week or other periods during the academic year?
- AS comment: “We underscore the importance of distinguishing educational activities from policies governing public expression so as not to create barriers for the campus community to educate students and pursue scholarly inquiry on topics that may be deemed controversial.” Is this intended to suggest that expressive activities from faculty are always considered an educational activity or is the comment related to ensuring that classroom instruction is not subject to the TPM policies, which it is not?

November 13, 2024

Michael J. Beck
Administrative Vice Chancellor, UCLA

Re: Revised UCLA Time, Place, and Manner Policies

Dear Administrative Vice Chancellor Beck,

At the November 7, 2024, meeting of the Executive Board (EB), members reviewed the proposed revisions to the UCLA Time, Place, and Manner Policies and the attached responses from divisional Senate committees and councils.

Members voted in favor of a motion to oppose the proposed policies as written based on the concerns in the attached memos and to advise that the policies should better protect free speech rather than limit what people can do.

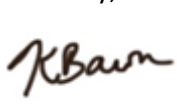
Some members questioned the wisdom of having policy provisions that the campus is not willing to enforce consistently and that are overly prescriptive in ways that university cannot practically enforce. The Faculty Welfare Committee memo includes a recent example of arbitrary enforcement that lends itself to a complaint of disparate treatment.

Members emphasized the importance of protecting First Amendment rights including freedom of speech and to peaceably assemble.

EB requests a close review of all of the advisement offered in the attached committee and council letters, which both contain similar themes of concern and also highlight specific additional problems with the proposed policy revisions.

The Academic Senate appreciates the opportunity to advise on these important campus policies.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Bawn
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate
Anna Joyce, Director, Administrative Policies and Strategic Initiatives
Andrea Kasko, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
Megan McEvoy, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate