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Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
Faculty Representative to the Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

January 31, 2024

CHAIRS OF SENATE DIVISIONS AND SYSTEMWIDE COMMITTEES:

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

Dear Colleagues,

I am forwarding for systemwide Senate review a proposed UC Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites.

A background note: this policy first appeared in another form as [Item J3](#) on the January 24 agenda of the joint meeting of the Regents Academic and Student Affairs Committee and the Compliance and Audit Committee as an action item for adoption by the full Board. The Academic Council expressed [concerns](#) about the process leading to this proposed action and requested an opportunity for an expedited Senate review of the policy in time for discussion at the Regents March 19-21 meeting. You may also be interested in the Academic Council’s June 2022 [Recommendations for Department Political Statements](#).

Please submit comments to the Academic Senate office at SenateReview@ucop.edu by March 8, 2024, to allow us to compile and summarize comments for a special meeting of the Academic Council the following week. As always, any committee that considers these matters outside its jurisdiction or charge may decline to comment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

James Steintrager, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: Senate Division Executive Directors
Executive Director Lin

Encl.



THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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January 30, 2024

Academic Council Chair James Steintrager
Academic Council Vice Chair Steven Cheung

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

Dear Chair Steintrager and Vice Chair Cheung:

Enclosed for systemwide Senate review is a proposed Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites which will be considered for action at the March 2024 Board of Regents meeting.

We would appreciate receiving a summary of your comments no later than **Friday, March 15** so that the Regents have time to consider your comments prior to the meeting. Please note that this policy is in draft form and Board members reserve the right to make additional edits as they deem necessary.

Thank you, in advance, for conducting this expedited review.

Sincerely,

Rich Leib
Chair, Board of Regents

cc: Vice Chair Elliott
Regent Park
Regent Sures
President Drake
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Newman
General Counsel and Senior Vice President Robinson

Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites

POLICY TEXT

Upholding the values of freedom of speech and inquiry are core to the University of California's mission. Under the First Amendment and principles of academic freedom, faculty members, individually and collectively, have the right to express their views. While individual members of the University community are free to express constitutionally protected viewpoints through all non-official channels of communication, they may not associate the official administrative units of the University with their personal viewpoints. Long-standing principles of academic freedom have recognized that when faculty members speak or write as citizens, they should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

The University of California establishes websites and other official channels of communication maintained by the campuses, schools, departments, centers, units, and other entities ("Units") for purposes of conducting the official business of the University and these Units. Examples of a Units' official business may include delivering informational resources about the Unit, such as course descriptions, and communicating personnel changes, dates of upcoming events, the release of new publications, the issuance of new policies, and similar activities.

The main landing page of a Unit's website shall only be used for purposes of conducting the official business of that Unit. Such page shall not be used for purposes of expressing the personal or collective opinions of Unit members, as other means of publishing those opinions are available. Opinion expressed in locations of the Unit's administrative website other than the main landing page shall bear a disclaimer or other notation making clear that the opinion expressed is that of the author or authors, and does not represent the official views of the University or that Unit.

Nothing in this policy shall limit the following:

1. The use of any privately-maintained resource or other non-University media by any member of the University community for any purpose;
2. Communications by the Chair of the Board of Regents or his or her designee, the President of the University, the Chancellors, and the leadership of the Academic Senate in their respective roles as spokespersons for the University within their areas of responsibility;
3. Communications by UC-affiliated associations or auxiliaries with their constituencies pursuant to their own rules, provided they make clear, as warranted, that viewpoints where expressed do not represent the official views of the University;
4. Authority of the Units to communicate news and events related to faculty research and teaching; or
5. Authority of the Units to adopt additional policies on use of Unit electronic resources provided that any such policies must not reduce or eliminate the limitations contained in this policy.

This policy shall be construed in a manner consistent with the First Amendment and other applicable laws.

COMPLIANCE/DELEGATION

Any questions concerning the application of this policy shall be referred to the administrator responsible for maintaining the website and such administrator shall be responsible for assuring compliance with this policy.

NO RIGHT OF ACTION

This policy is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the University of California or its Board of Regents, individual Regents, officers, employees, or agents.