



CHAIR, ACADEMIC SENATE  
RIVERSIDE DIVISION  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE BUILDING, RM 225

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October 24, 2008

Mary Croughan  
Professor, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences  
Chair, UC Systemwide Academic Senate  
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mary:

**RE: REQUEST BY THE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM TO  
CHANGE SENATE BY-LAWS AND ADD UCAF TO COUNCIL**

The above request was reviewed by the Committee on Academic Freedom, Committee on Committees and Rules and Jurisdiction.

The Committee on Academic Freedom approved both requests and their comments are appended below:

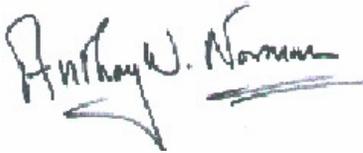
On the amendment to Senate bylaw 125.A.4 that would make the chair of UCAF a member of the Academic Council, the Committee recommends that it be adopted. The Committee is aware that this change would greatly expand the time commitment expected from the UCAF chair and would add to the cost of Council meetings. The Committee believes that these expenditures are justified by the importance of making the Academic Council better informed about and more sensitive to issues involving academic freedom. When UC's national labs were being spun off to new private entities a couple of years ago, the Council worried about the pensions and health care of lab employees, but gave no thought to their academic freedom. The academic freedom of lab employees was left to be worked out in a separate agreement negotiated years after the spin-off, and without consultation with UCAF.

On the amendments to Bylaws 128 and 130, which would increase the terms of UCAF chairs from one year to two, the Committee was divided. A majority of three members agreed that this change was worth making, in order to increase the expertise and effectiveness of the UCAF chair. A minority of two members believed that UCAF chairs already receive enough training before they assume their posts, because they typically serve one or more years representing their division on UCAF, and then one year as vice chair of UCAF, before they fill the office of UCAF chair.

Both COC and R&J supported the change to the senate bylaw and approved the request to add UCAF to the Academic Council.

Concerning the proposed 2-year term for the Academic Freedom Committee, I find the arguments unconvincing. 7 of 8 Chairs of University Standing Committees (BOARS excluded) are clearly able to function quite well with only one year terms. I do not agree that Academic Freedom issues are more complex than UCPB issues for example.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony W. Norman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Anthony W. Norman  
Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and  
Biomedical Sciences; and  
Chair of the Riverside Division