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Assembly of the Academic Senate
Academic Council
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August 29, 2008

**SYSTEMWIDE SENATE COMMITTEE CHAIRS
DIVISION CHAIRS**

Re: Proposed Amendments to Senate Bylaws 125.A.4, 128, and 130

RESPONSE DATE: Friday, November 21, 2008

Dear System-wide Senate Committee and Division Chairs:

On behalf of Chair Michael T. Brown and Chair-Elect Mary Croughan, please find attached a request from the University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) to make the following changes to the Senate Bylaws:

1. Amend Senate Bylaw [125.A.4](#), adding the chair of the University Committee on Academic Freedom to the Academic Council as a standing member.
2. Approve an amendment to Senate Bylaws [128](#) and [130](#), changing the standard term of the UCAF chair from one year to two years.

We would like to receive responses from both the systemwide Senate Committees and the Divisions by no later than November 21, 2008.

As a reminder to systemwide Senate Committee Chairs, please note that requests for comments are sent out to all systemwide Senate Committees. Each committee may decide whether or not to opine. Please notify the Senate Office if your committee chooses *not* to participate in this review by emailing me or your Committee Analyst.

I have enclosed UCAF's letter to Council, for your information. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Chair-Elect Croughan if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Martha Winnacker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Martha Winnacker, Executive Director
Academic Senate

Copy: Academic Council Chair Michael T. Brown
Academic Council Chair-Elect Mary Croughan
Divisional Senate Directors
Academic Senate Committee Analysts

Encl. 1



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM (UCAF)
RAPHAEL ZIDOVETZKI, CHAIR
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Cell Biology and Neuroscience
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March 26, 2008

MICHAEL BROWN
CHAIR, ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Re: Proposed Senate Bylaw Modifications Regarding UCAF Representation on Academic Council and the Term of the UCAF Chair

Dear Michael,

At its December 2007 meeting, the University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) voted unanimously to request the following of the Academic Council:

1. Approve an amendment to Senate Bylaw [125.A.4.](#), adding the chair of the University Committee on Academic Freedom to the Academic Council as a standing member.
2. Approve an amendment to Senate Bylaws [128](#) and [130](#), changing the standard term of the UCAF chair from one year to two years.

In short, UCAF believes its presence on Council will fill a void in deliberations and contribute important insights on a broad range of issues under consideration. A two-year chair will provide greater continuity to the committee.

Justification for UCAF Representation on Academic Council

This is a critical time for academic freedom. In recent years, an increasing number of issues – including the revision of APM 010, the Regents' RE-89 policy, and intensified efforts by outside groups to intimidate or restrict the exercise of academic freedom on university campuses – have highlighted the importance of defending academic freedom. At the same time, appreciation of academic freedom on campuses is often limited, as reflected in various incidents in which campus administrators and chairpersons have taken steps that arguably infringe on the academic freedom of faculty members. Greater understanding, awareness, and vigilance about academic freedom issues among faculty, the broader university community, and society at large is needed to respond to the growing threats to academic freedom. UCAF representation on the Academic Council will facilitate the defense and promotion of the underappreciated yet critical value of academic freedom.

Indeed, academic freedom is fundamental to a strong, independent system of faculty governance in that it safeguards the faculty's prerogative to determine and to apply professional standards for assessing teaching and scholarship. UCAF's direct representation on Council will ensure that

proper attention is given to academic freedom issues affecting both faculty and students. The UCAF chair will contribute vital perspectives in a wide variety of actions where such consideration might be overlooked. Awarding UCAF a permanent seat on Council will show that the Academic Senate is serious about academic freedom and its importance to the research and teaching mission of the University of California.

Justification for Changing Term of UCAF Chair to Two Years

Like many systemwide Senate committees, up to half of the membership of UCAF can change from year to year. Given the relative complexity of the issues addressed by the committee, the present one-year term for the UCAF chair limits the committee's ability to hit the ground running each year and to address issues effectively. Changing the term of the chair to two years will provide more continuity of leadership and help ensure that UCAF has the depth of institutional knowledge needed to execute its charge. To accomplish this, we recommend amendments to Bylaw 128 section C and Bylaw 130 section A, to be effective with the incoming 2008-09 UCAF chair.

UCAF's specific proposed changes to Senate Bylaws 125, 128, and 130 are indicated below with underlined text.

125. Academic Council

A. Membership. The Academic Council shall consist of the following members:

1. The Chair of the Assembly, who is the Chair of the Academic Council;
2. The Vice Chair of the Assembly, who is the Vice Chair of the Academic Council;
3. The Chairs of the Divisions;
4. The Chairs of the following University Standing Committees:

Academic Freedom

Academic Personnel

Affirmative Action and Diversity

Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools

Educational Policy

Faculty Welfare

Graduate Affairs

Planning and Budget

Research Policy

128. Membership of Standing Committees of the Assembly

C. The Chair of each of the above committees shall be an at-large member, who is a former, but not a present member of the corresponding Divisional committee. The Chair shall normally serve a one-year term. The Chair of Academic Freedom shall normally serve a two-year term.

130. Academic Freedom

A. Membership shall be determined in accordance with Bylaw 128. One undergraduate and one graduate student shall sit with the Committee. [See Bylaw 128.E.] The Vice Chair shall be chosen in accordance with Bylaw 128. D. and 3. The Chair shall serve a two year term.

Thank you for considering this request, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Raphael Zidovetzki
Chair, UCAF

cc: UCAF
Director Bertero-Barceló