


UC RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA | **Academic Senate**
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

April 22, 2015

To: Jose Wudka, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

From: Ward Beyermann, Chair 
Committee on Academic Freedom

Re: Pilot for Equity Access to University Facilities

The members of the Committee on Academic Freedom were asked to comment via e-mail on a proposed pilot that would allow the University to accept equity in exchange for access to university facilities and services. When a stakeholder has a financial incentive, the potential for abuse of academic freedoms is higher. This is certainly a concern with proprietary research. In response, the proposed pilot does address potential conflicts of interest, primarily in Section IV.C. The beginning of this section states “University acceptance of Equity for AFS shall be based upon the educational, research, and public service missions of the University over financial or individual personal gain.” Overall, the committee does not object to running this program as a pilot. However, unrelated to the charge of this committee, there is some concern that the proposal is unclear about how program success will be evaluated and under what criteria performance will be judged. Apparently, the Office of the President will be responsible for this determination and will decide whether or not to continue the program after the pilot. We recommend including the Senate in that decision.