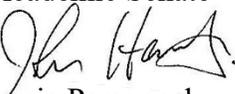
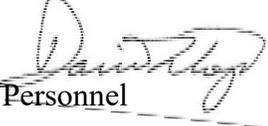


**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PERSONNEL**

March 22, 2017

To: Dylan Rodriguez  
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: John Heraty, Chair   
Committee on Academic Personnel

David Lloyd, Vice Chair   
Committee on Academic Personnel

Re: Shrimad Rajchandra Endowed Chair Proposal in Jain Studies

CAP reviewed the Endowed Chair proposal and appreciates the efforts of the Dean of CHASS to attract donations to support the development of the academic program at UCR. However, CAP has a number of serious concerns that prevent the committee from considering the proposal as currently presented.

Firstly, as it is proposed, the wording in the proposal does not guarantee academic freedom in the selection and oversight of either the candidate or the research being undertaken. CAP focused on two core issues within the proposal.

A) Section II.A. paragraph 2 is inappropriate and should be removed. This statement is too detailed with regard to the direction of research and the need to focus research on specific principles of the religion. The chosen chair must have the freedom to conduct research in any topic within the area of Jain studies. Paragraph 3 is short, succinct and implies no such boundaries.

B) under the Exhibit A Stewardship agreement, CAP perceived there to be too much oversight implied in the creation of an advisory council by the donors that would be involved with the process and progress of the Chair's recruitment, and require regular engagement by the Chair with the Jain community. This goes beyond reporting the activities of the Chair to the donors and toward an inappropriate requirement of mandatory engagement.

While the standard language in the Dean's proposal on page 2 indicates that "the intellectual independence of the chair holder's scholarly independence is assured", such language does not appear explicitly in the body of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Secondly, the proposal also raised concerns with regard to its potential impact on UCR's reputation. CAP noted that a similar Jain Chair position was proposed and rejected at UC

Irvine: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/02/22/uc-irvine-moves-reject-endowed-chair-gifts-donor-strong-opinions-about-study>. In that case, the Jain Chair donors were associated with a set of endowed chairs that had direct ties to the Dharma Civilization Foundation, which was found to seek inappropriate control over the academic study of Hinduism. A UCI committee found the endowment proposal to be inconsistent with the values of the university and the Dean decided not to proceed with the chairs. The UCI Jain Chair was also withdrawn for further consideration. CAP requires independent assurance that the current Endowed Chair in Jain Studies would not be subject to similar restrictions on the research agenda and scholarly findings of any Chair appointed under the terms of the endowment, and seeks assurance that due diligence has been undertaken to guarantee the independence of the holder of the Chair.

Further, the identified donors of this Chair, Dr. Jasvant Modi and Dr. Meera Modi, were in September 2016 implicated in an illegal Patient-Transfer Medicare scheme to defraud Medicare and Medi-Cal through the illegal recruitment of Skid Row residents: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/la-nursing-home-two-physicians-pay-over-35-million-resolve-allegations-they>. UCR may be tainted by that scandal.

While recognizing that the claims resolved by the settlement are allegations only and that there has been no determination of liability, CAP feels that it is of the utmost importance that UCR should ensure that its donors' reputations do not bring that of the university into question.