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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92521-0132

November 16, 2016

TO: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Academic Senate

FROM: Jason Weems, Chair
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Systemwide Review of Proposed Policy Draft of the New Presidential Policy on
International Activities

The CHASS Executive Committee discussed the Proposed Policy Draft of the New Presidential Policy on International Activities at our regular meeting on November 16, 2016.

While the Committee understands how the rapid expansion of international initiatives might require a more substantial governing policy, we are troubled by the potential for overreach they enable. We are particularly concerned by the potential for violation of academic freedom standards, especially in regard to the assertion of approval authority by the "Executive office at the UC location" (p.12, F.3.iii) regarding "collaborations between faculty and peers overseas" to "artistic, cultural, and scholarly exchanges." Asserting rights of approval over such basic associations and collaborations strikes us as an inappropriate intervention that could potentially be used to limit the free and open exchange of ideas. (That the FAQ section offers contradictory advice that such minute levels of scrutiny are not necessary only confuses the matter).

Likewise, we note that while the documents go far in delineating the rights of administration to assert approval authority, it does little to enunciate the regulations by which this authority will be governed. What are the standards, for example, by which an Executive Officer might exercise the authority to disallow collaboration?

Another member wondered if the implicit expectation of increased international activity will affect merit and promotion expectations (The Call).

Finally, the Committee notes that the time has come for UC documents to adapt to the use of inclusive, non-gendered pronouns (replacing, for example, him/her with they).

Jason Weems, Chair

UCR CHASS Executive Committee