

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
December 4, 2018**

To be received and placed on file:

The Committee on Academic Freedom is an important part of faculty governance and collegial responsibility in the University of California system. As a committee of the Riverside Academic Senate, Academic Freedom is appointed by the Senate's Committee on Committees and consists of five members of the Division, including as ex officio the Chairs of the Committee on Privilege and Tenure and the Committee on Faculty Welfare. The Committee is responsible for reporting to the Division any conditions within or without the University that in the judgement of the committee may affect the freedom of the academic community at large. It is understood that academic freedom includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the free inquiry and exchange of ideas, the right to present controversial material relevant to a course of instruction, and the freedom to publish or disseminate controversial information and perform research in controversial areas. It is also understood that academic freedom is to be conjoined with academic responsibility; it is to be exercised in accordance with standards appropriate to the relevant scholarly disciplines.

The Committee on Academic Freedom conducted committee activities via email and met four times during the 2017-2018 academic year. In addition to reaffirming its Conflict of Interest Statement, the Committee undertook the following actions:

a. Communication with the Campus at Large

In keeping with its charge to assist in the education of the academic community regarding the rights and responsibilities relating to academic freedom, the Committee conducted a review of its bylaws and communicated a statement of its duties and mission to the general UCR academic community via the Senate email. In response, the Committee considered inquiries from the campus at large concerning various topics:

- Inquiry received regarding freedom of expression and concern over UCLA incident where student was assaulted by police for nonviolent academic discourse with Mnuchin.
- Inquiry received regarding free speech and concern over liberal bias in academia.

b. Discussions with Campus Leadership and Recommendations to the Administration

At the May 23, 2017 Riverside Division meeting a resolution was adopted that requested the Committee on Academic Freedom to recommend procedures to collaborate with Scholars at Risk (SAR) and Scholars Rescue Fund (SRF) and with administrative staff to facilitate and encourage the invitation of refugee scholars to the UCR campus and to share regular and equitable processes by which these ends can be achieved. The Committee was also to recommend a process for UCR faculty, Deans, and Chairs to consult SAR's and SRF's lists to identify and communicate to the Senate committee the names and credentials of scholars they would like to invite as visiting faculty, particularly when regular faculty go on leaves or sabbaticals.

The Committee on Academic Freedom worked closely with Vice Provost Kelechi Kalu and Professor David Lloyd to establish UCR Procedures for the SAR application, a document which was approved by the Riverside Division at its May 29, 2018 meeting.

c. Advice to the Academic Senate

In keeping with its charge to evaluate and propose revision as needed to current institutional policies as they might relate to academic freedom, the Committee considered the following Campus and System-wide issues:

Campus Review

- Breadth Requirement Proposal. Gender Studies Breadth Requirement
- Draft WASC Institutional Report
- Sustainability Ad Hoc Report
- Proposal Open Access 2020 (OA2020)
- Proposed Regulation Change to GR1.6 from Graduate Council
- Consultation. Cluster Hiring Initiative. Status and Future Plans
- (Revised) Pilot Program for Globalizing Undergraduate Students' Learning Experience
- Proposed Regulation Change. (2nd Round) Riverside Regulations R1.4, R1.4.1, R1.4.2 (Grading System)
- Report Review. Course Scheduling Policy Workgroup Report
- Proposal. Campus Implementation Procedures for the Negotiated Salary Trial Program
- UCR 5-Year Planning Perspectives 2018-2023

The Committee offered no comments on the following campus review items:

- Proposed Changes to Riverside Regulations R1.4, R1.4.1, R1.4.2

System-wide Review

- Proposed Amendment to Senate Bylaw 128, Conflicts of Interest
- Proposed Presidential Policy on Open Access for Theses and Dissertations

The Committee offered no comments on the following system-wide review item:

- Taskforce Report on the Negotiated Salary Trial Program

The Committee's formal response to each issue is located on the Academic Senate website and can be found at: <http://senate.ucr.edu/about/issues/2017-2018/>

d. Representation at Systemwide Senate and the Executive Council

The Committee on Academic Freedom continued its active participation on the systemwide University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF). The 2017-18 UCAF representative was John Levin, who updated committee members of the issues under discussion at the statewide level.

Respectfully submitted,

John Levin, Chair
Emma Aronson
Katja Guenther
Dmitri Maslov
Michael Adams, *Ex-Officio*, CP&T
Daniel Jeske, *Ex-Officio*, CFW
Maiko Le Lay – GSA Representative
Kyle Stafford – ASUCR Representative