

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM (UCAF) 2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

The University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) met once in Academic Year 2010-2011, to conduct business with respect to its duties as outlined in [Senate Bylaw 130](#). Highlights of the Committee's activities and accomplishments are noted in this report.

Proposed Revisions to Definitions of Academic Freedom and Faculty Code of Conduct

In 2010, UCAF proposed amending APM 010-Academic Freedom and 015-Faculty Code of Conduct to reflect the right of faculty to freedom of speech in shared governance. The committee agreed to the importance of this following discussions about the Hong and Renken cases. The proposal to revise APMs 010 and 015 was submitted to the Academic Council and was sent out for systemwide review in fall 2010. Senate committees and Divisions supported the proposed changes, and the proposal was submitted to the Office of the President for a formal administrative review. In March 2011, UCAF met with Susan Carlson, Vice Provost, Academic Personnel to discuss the changes. Vice Provost Carlson reported that the changes to the APM will be reviewed again, including a second Senate review. It is being reviewed by Office of General Counsel since specific language has been approved by Council. OGC is considering what the appropriate language should be and the president is also reviewing the proposed changes. The review at UCOP should be completed this spring.

Privacy and Security Initiative

In March, UCAF met with Stephen Lau, Policy Director, Information Resources and Communication to learn about UCOP's Privacy and Security Initiative. This 18 month initiative was started due to a number of information security breaches of personal information and UCOP decided to revisit how UC looks at privacy and security. Laws related to these issues have changed over recent years. The electronic communications policy is not up to day given changes like new social media platforms. Monitoring email is a slippery slope and how far this monitoring should go is one question. The needs of faculty need to be determined to ensure that any new policies or guidelines are viable. The Chair suggested that UCAF should request the opportunity to participate in the meetings and campus committees should be asked to weigh in as well. Director Lau invited the committee to provide feedback.

Research Using Animal Subjects

UCAF discussed issues related to researchers using animal subjects which is a particularly serious problem at UCLA. Federal and state legislation provides some degree of protection for researchers using animal subjects. However, these laws have not been applied and enforced as it seems that the FBI has not made this a priority and may lack needed resources. The committee suggested that regular forums about this issue attended by proponents and opponents of research on animal subjects could be one way to increase awareness and understanding. The problem is when people use violence to oppose research. UCAF proposed drafting a statement to be submitted to Council that condemns the use of violence. Members agreed that the purpose and benefits of the research could be clarified for the general public. At the systemwide level there could be a task force to put in place the policies needed to protect researchers which would give all of the campuses a structure.

Academic Freedom for Lecturers

UCAF discussed the issue of academic freedom for lecturers and whether the academic freedom of

lecturers should be considered on par with that of other faculty. The traditional rationale for academic freedom is that tenure track and tenured faculty have been vetted in a way lecturers are not. Lecturers are not members of the Senate and are not reviewed in the same way. They have different responsibilities and rights than Senate members. It was suggested that academic freedom could be extended to lecturers with qualifications. There are a number of different types of lecturers so they would need to be treated differently. Members agreed that UCAF should determine who academic freedom generally applies to outside of UC. Another possibility is that tenure could be decoupled from academic freedom. This issue will be on UCAF's agenda for 2011-2012.

Respectfully submitted,

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