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**MARK G. YUDOF, PRESIDENT**  
**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

**Re: Senate response to the National Association of Scholars report, “A Crisis of Competence”**

Dear Mark:

At your request, the Academic Council discussed “A Crisis of Competence,” a report from the National Association of Scholars, with input from the University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF), the University Committee on Academic Personnel (UCAP), and the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP). We submit the following comments on the report:

- Most of the assertions in the report are made without data. Anecdotes do not provide evidence of a systemic problem. The purported connection between assumed faculty political inclinations and the decline in academic performance in the K-12 system is tenuous, at best.
- Faculty hiring and advancement processes follow stringent rules that are blind to political inclination, with multiple points of oversight.
- The University and Senate promulgate policies that provide systemic protection of academic freedom. For instance,
  - The [Faculty Code of Conduct](#) (APM 015, Part II.A) specifies the rights and obligations of instructors, and includes provisions to ensure students’ academic freedom.
  - The University regularly conducts the University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey ([UCUES](#)), which specifically asks students whether they feel their freedom of expression has been curtailed. In the recent UCUES survey, 83% of respondents said that students are respected regardless of their political beliefs.
  - Campus Committees on Academic Personnel review and take seriously student course evaluations in their consideration of faculty merit and promotion cases.
  - Other institutional safeguards at the systemic level, such as grievance committees, ombudspersons, and Senate committees on Privilege and Tenure, operate on all campuses. The content of instruction is within the purview of the faculty, subject to approval by the Academic Senate. Attempts to influence course content constitute a serious threat to academic freedom.

In summary, Council strongly believes that University processes are in place to ensure that all members of the campus community are able to engage in free expression, and are able to avail themselves of mechanisms to address any abrogation of their rights. The National Association of Scholars report provides no credible evidence to the contrary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Robert M. Anderson, Chair  
Academic Council

Cc: Academic Council  
Executive Director Winnacker