

## UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM (UCAF)

### 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

#### TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

The University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) met three times in Academic Year 2015-2016 (twice by teleconference) 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.

#### Regents Statement on Principles Intolerance

In October, the committee conducted a teleconference in Executive Session to discuss the Regents' [draft Statement on Intolerance](#) which had been proposed and rejected by the Board in September. Subsequently, a Regents' Work Group was formed to develop a new Statement on Intolerance, to which Academic Senate Chair Hare was appointed. The Work Group's process included a day of public comment at which a statement prepared by UCAF was read. The [Final Report of the Regents Working Group on Principles against Intolerance](#) was released just days before UCAF's scheduled meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup> and the Board's March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Although another opportunity was not provided for public comment and the Senate was not asked to formally review the revised statement, Chair Hare submitted a [memo to Work Group members](#) on March 21<sup>st</sup> outlining faculty concerns about the Final Report of the Regents Working Group on Principles against Intolerance. The memo included concerns raised by the Academic Council and Divisional Senate leaders as well as a report from UCAF to Chair Hare that offered specific suggestions for the Regents' last-minute consideration. On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Regents accepted the amended language suggested by the University Committee on Academic Freedom. At the March 30<sup>th</sup> [Academic Council meeting](#), President Napolitano acknowledged the significant Senate contribution to the process and outcome.

#### UC Network Monitoring Initiative

UCAF received briefings from the Senate leadership about the UC Network Monitoring Initiative this year. As a result of an internet security breach at UCLA, UC campuses began to monitor web traffic to determine the use of problematic websites and to watch for transfers of large data files. UCOP has a policy that permits it to direct staff at the campuses to put network monitoring in place without notifying faculty. The committee was concerned that network monitoring may have a chilling effect on the sites that faculty opt to visit. While UCAF members agree that there is an academic freedom issue, it is secondary to privacy concerns.

UCOP is open to more Senate involvement, but whether monitoring will be done at all is not open to debate. UCAF was informed that the University's Electronic Communications Policy will be updated in the near future and the Senate will have the opportunity to review the revised policy. OGC has provided feedback that will, with some revised language, make the monitoring more consistent with UC's policy on privacy. A new structure for involving the Academic Senate is being established and it will include the Committee on Academic Computing and Communications, and UCAF will continue to monitor the issue.

#### Other Issues and Additional Business

Openness in Research is an ongoing information item that UCOP's Office of Graduate Studies and Research has discussed with UCAF over the past several years. It is expected that the policy will be sent to the Senate for review in the future. Additionally, UCAF devoted part of each regular meeting to reports on issues facing local committees.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Montgomery, Chair (R)  
Jody Kreiman (LA)  
Eric Widera (SF)  
David Wagner (B)  
Thorne Lay (SC)  
Jeffrey Haydu (SD)

Hugh Roberts, Vice Chair (I)  
Christopher Elmendorf (D)  
Hugh Roberts (I)  
Rudy Ortiz (M)  
Ward Beyermann (R)  
Erika Rappaport (SB)

Dan Hare ((R); Chair, Academic Senate, *Ex Officio*)  
Jim Chalfant ((D); Vice Chair, Academic Senate, *Ex Officio*)  
Brenda Abrams, Principal Analyst