

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2001-2002**

**TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:**

The University Committee on Academic Freedom convened three times during the academic year 2001-2002, and held one teleconference among members of the committee's Symposium Planning Task Force. Herein are outlined the major activities of and issues considered by the committee over the course of the year.

**Revision of the UC Policy on Copyright**

UCAF reviewed the three draft policy proposals prepared by the UC Standing Committee on Copyright, commending these efforts and making several recommendations to further safeguard faculty's ownership of course material. These included: defining the contextual usage of the term "syllabus"; refining language for consistency and broader effectiveness; making explicit the right to appeal a judgment of the Course Materials Policy Committee. In addition, UCAF saw the need to augment the Policy on Reservation of Rights with a recommended standard form and/or standard language for faculty use.

**Student Evaluations**

UCAF considered the question of whether student evaluations have an impact on careers or on teaching, and therefore on academic freedom. The committee felt that, at the least, there is a need to assess how student evaluations function on all levels, and whether they perform an important role. Also considered was the possible need to standardize and modify the use and form of student evaluations so as to provide more useful feedback to faculty, and to develop alternative teaching evaluation processes. Through the Academic Council Chair, the discussion was then opened up to UCAP, UCEP and UCP&T. UCAF looks forward to receiving wider input from the Senate for its future consideration of this issue.

**Racial Privacy Initiative**

Although when the committee considered this issue in May it was not yet clear whether the Racial Privacy Initiative would be on this year's state ballot, UCAF recorded its opinion that academic freedom would be negatively affected if the provisions of the Racial Privacy Initiative are interpreted in a way that would limit the ability of scholars to conduct their research.

**Symposium on Academic Freedom**

The committee dedicated a portion of each meeting to preliminary planning of a Symposium on Academic Freedom. A teleconference was also held among members of the planning task force. The symposium's overarching purpose is to promote greater understanding of the meaning of academic freedom, its challenges, boundaries and future within the current academic environment, to forge inter-relations with other Senate Committees and administration, and to develop potential strategies that address areas of concern. As a basis for symposium topics, the committee articulated some internal and external forces that affect academic freedom: 1) corporate-University relations; 2) impact of multiple funding sources and external granting agencies; 4) pressures to

publish; 5) recent crises that have altered government priorities and the mood and perception of the country; and 6) an apparent lack of faculty awareness of the functions of both campus academic freedom committees and UCAF. Chair Wallhagen met with the Academic Council Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Director to discuss all aspects of the symposium, and in particular to determine sources of funding for and the scope of the event. The Symposium is now being seen as a Senate-wide event, and planning will continue in the fall towards a spring 2003 date.

### **UC Management of DOE Laboratories**

The committee heard regular reports from the UCAF representative on the UCORP Subcommittee on UC-DOE Relations, and discussed their university-wide activities as well as issues such as the implications of laboratory management contracts and policy, and the status of researchers in the labs (Senate membership). Particular to academic freedom, were the issue of opportunity for researchers to work disinterestedly, and the related issue of the role of the DOE in research assignments.

### **Committee Membership**

Bylaw Revision: In concordance with the general review of all systemwide committee bylaws, UCAF ratified the May 2001 proposed changes of Bylaw 130, which was submitted to the ad hoc Committee on Bylaws. The main structural change in the proposed bylaw is the addition of a Vice Chair.

Outside Representation: In response to a solicitation by the Academic Council Chair, UCAF nominated a representative to sit on the University Committee on Copyright. This will be an ongoing committee liaison.

### **Other Issues and Activities**

UCAF's activities also included: considering the implications of a UCSF petition to ban research funding by the tobacco industry; monitoring the civil liberties issue in connection with federal government access to student records, and in particular UC Berkeley's student and Senate response to implementation of the PATRIOT Act; and discussion of academic freedom cases at other universities. UCAF is anticipating an active 2002-03 session that will focus on the realization of the Symposium and expanded activity within the Senate.

Respectfully submitted:

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