

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

VIDEOCONFERENCE MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018

Attending: Christopher Elmendorf, Chair (UCD), Alan Terriciano, Vice Chair (UCI), Dana Nelkin (UCSD), Mary Furner (UCSB), John Levin (UCR), Jyu-Lin Chen (UCSF), Gail Hershatter (UCSC), Ty Alper (UCB), Fabio Macciardi (UCI), Eric Rauchway (UCD), Shane White (Chair, Academic Senate), Robert May (Vice Chair, Academic Senate), Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst, Academic Senate)

I. Welcome

Chair Elmendorf welcomed members to the videoconference.

II. Consent Calendar

Action: The December 7, 2017 meeting minutes were approved.

III. Consultation with the Academic Senate Office

- *Shane White, Chair, Academic Senate*
- *Robert May, Vice Chair, Academic Senate*

Chair White provided an update on the response to the UC Student Association letter regarding free speech and hate speech. Chair Elmendorf called into Academic Council's January meeting for the discussion of UCAF's memo. Council had some concerns about the focus on the First Amendment in the committee's memo. Rearranging the paragraphs so that the memo began with the Principles of Community would alleviate Council's concerns.

Discussion: One divisional CAF is encouraging the administration to condemn hate speech and respond more fully to the concerns of students. A member asked if the UCSA letter was informed by consultation with the individual campus' student associations and Chair White believes that the local student groups were consulted. It was noted that the systemwide Committee on Academic Freedom is the most logical forum to address issues related to freedom of expression. Chair White believes that there will be ongoing discussions at the campuses about campus climate and free speech. UCAF members were asked if they would switch the order of two paragraphs in the UCAF statement.

Action: Chair Elmendorf will revise the UCAF memo as agreed and circulate it to the members.

IV. Federal Government Funding Priorities and Policies

Members were invited to share if any of the recently announced screening policies for discretionary grants instituted by federal funding agencies have impacted faculty at their campuses.

Discussion: UCI's Office of Research has reported that no research or projects have been affected to date. The UCSD representative consulted with colleagues at Scripps who reported that there has been a chilling effect but the faculty do not currently have grants with the Environmental Protection Agency. Some faculty have heard politicians discussing potential threats to the Sea Grants Program. It was noted that the political filtering dates back to the Bush administration and this is now expanding to other federal agencies. Campus research offices should be asked to monitor any de-funding of grant projects.

Having different priorities about the types of research that should be conducted may be a policy decision with which faculty disagree but it is not necessarily an academic freedom issue. Some faculty have indicated that having political appointees involved with funding decisions is a new practice. A member shared that if research is not funded due to the federal policies, there may be an impact on decisions that CAPs make about tenure. Chair Elmendorf suggested that CAPs could be asked to pay attention to this potentiality when reviewing cases. Having political appointees make decisions based on vague criteria or

criteria that have not been announced is problematic. The intrusion of the White House in areas that have historically been autonomous is an issue for academic freedom.

It may be difficult to determine if research is not being funded or de-funded. Faculty may be changing the contents of their proposals. The chair asked if it would be premature for UCAF to write a letter of concern about the topics to be studied with government funds and the changing the nature of the decision-making to alert CAPs to the issues. Members expressed support for putting UCAF's concerns in writing. It was suggested that the UCAF memo cite the American Association of University Professors' (AAUP) report and highlight the potential degradation of academic freedom. Calling attention to and summarizing the AAUP report could be the focus. The audience for the memo includes CAP chairs and Academic Council will be asked to send the UCAF memo to the president.

Action: Chair Elmendorf and Vice Chair Terriciano will draft the memo.

V. Campus Reports and Member Items

San Diego: A course on Woody Allen was protested by a student who was not taking the class and a petition to cancel the course with over twenty thousand signatures was submitted. The divisional chair and vice chair prepared a statement based on a CAF statement solicited for the occasion of the Woody Allen class protest. The faculty and the administration were on the same page and the course was not canceled. The representative will share details about the process with the committee. The outcome is that the divisional CAF will have a more active role in educating students and faculty about academic freedom.

The CAF is considering increasing the number of members on the CAF from three to five. Other campuses report having five to six members. UCSB has five members.

Santa Cruz: The CAF has been monitoring the fallout following the disruption of a College Republicans meeting. Chair Elmendorf shared that UCD does not have enforcement guidelines or policies about what happens when meetings are disrupted.

Riverside: The CAF has not heard back about the Negotiated Salary Trial Program (NSTP) and the committee continues to have concerns. It is not clear if the NSTP discriminates against faculty in the Humanities.

San Francisco: The committee received funding from the Chancellor to invite speakers to address academic freedom issues. Members are asked to suggest speakers on any topic related to academic freedom.

Davis: The CAF is reviewing campus policies on outside speakers to ensure neutrality and fairness.

VI. New Business

There was no New Business.

VII. Executive Session

Executive Session was not held.

Meeting adjourned at: 12PM

Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams

Attest: Chris Elmendorf