

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ACADEMIC SENATE

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Chair of the Assembly and the Academic Council
Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents
University of California
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Oakland, California 94607-5200

June 25, 2013

GARY FALLE
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT
FEDERAL GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Dear Gary:

The University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) brought the draft High Quality Research Act (Smith-TX) to the attention of the Academic Council at its meeting on May 22. The bill would allow political review of the grant review process at the National Science Foundation. The Council urges you to vigorously oppose any such political interference in the peer review process and asks that you carefully monitor such attempts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R. L. Powell'.

Robert L. Powell, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: Cameron Gunderson, UCAF Chair
Academic Council
Martha Winnacker, Senate Executive Director
Marjorie Duske, Director of Science and Technology, Federal Governmental Relations

Encl.



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM (UCAFP)
Cameron Gundersen, Chair
CGundersen@mednet.ucla.edu

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May 2, 2013

**BOB POWELL, CHAIR
ACADEMIC SENATE**

RE: THE HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH ACT

Dear Bob,

The US House of Representatives is on the verge of considering a bill that will add a layer of political review to the grant-review process at the National Science Foundation (see the accompanying link: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/04/29/lamar-smith-science_n_3165754.html). Although this is not a typical academic freedom issue, it is a matter of grave concern to the scientific community, which relies on peer review to identify meritorious research. Consequently, the members of UCAF unanimously encourage you to voice opposition on behalf of UC to congressional efforts to politicize the grant-review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cameron Gundersen".

Cameron Gundersen, Chair
UCAF