

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
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200*

July 9, 2013

MARK G. YUDOF
PRESIDENT

Dear Mark:

At its meeting on June 26, based on the recommendation of the University Committee on Computing and Communication (UCCC), the Academic Council unanimously endorsed the proposed IT Accessibility Policy as a statement of principle and expressed support for the effort to institute a systemwide policy on information technology accessibility. The Senate does not wish to conduct a systemwide review of the policy at this time, but may wish to be consulted as implementation plans are developed.

Council requests that you advise the Chancellors to include the Divisional Senates in the development of campus plans. Finally, it cautions against the creation of unfunded mandates to academic units.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Powell, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: Nathan Brostrom, EVP, Business Operations
Mark Cianca, Acting Chief Information Officer
Jim Chalfant, UCCC Chair
Academic Council
Martha Winnacker, Senate Executive Director
Stephen Lau, Policy Director
Brenda Abrams, UCCC Analyst



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS (UCCC)
James A. Chalfant, Chair
jim@primal.ucdavis.edu

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June 10, 2013

**ROBERT POWELL, CHAIR
ACADEMIC SENATE**

RE: Proposed UC IT Accessibility Policy

Dear Bob,

UCCC has reviewed the proposed UC IT Accessibility Policy at the request of Information Management and Technology Policy Director Stephen Lau. The committee strongly supports the effort to institute a systemwide policy on information technology accessibility, and recommends that the Academic Senate convey its support to the administration.

UCCC requests that Council advise each division to be involved with the development of its campus plan. The committee also recommends that the President instruct the Chancellors to work with the Senate. Additionally, we would encourage the campuses to be deliberate and thoughtful and to avoid creating obstacles or unintended consequences when developing their plans. It will be necessary to avoid the creation of unfunded mandates to academic units, now matter how well justified those mandates may seem, and to keep accessibility requirements in mind when new web-based technologies are conceived and implemented. There are likely to be various ways of achieving the desired outcomes on the web; especially given the ambitions reflected in the Innovative Learning Technology Initiative and parallel efforts on the campuses to expand UC's online course offerings, careful consideration should be given at the design stage and the cost of making online tools accessible should be factored into design choices. UCCC feels that the Senate should support this effort not only because it is necessary to comply with the law, but because it is the right thing to do. That said, the University cannot commit to absorbing any cost, no matter how great, without some provision for the necessary funding. No such provision exists at present.

Finally, at this time, UCCC does not see the need for a full review of the proposed policy. There will be many details that do require Senate consultation and wide review, but at this point, details are too few to make such a review anything but speculative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James A. Chalfant".

James A. Chalfant
UCCC Chair