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Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
Faculty Representative to the Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

July 13, 2018

JANET NAPOLITANO, PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: The Future of UC Press

Dear Janet:

At its June 27, 2018 meeting, the Academic Council unanimously endorsed the attached letter from the Senate's Editorial Committee (EDIT) expressing grave concerns about a proposal to move UC Press from UCOP, potentially as soon as July 1, 2020.

While Council has seen no formal proposal from UCOP for moving UC Press, we understand that the Huron Report proposed the potential transition of the Press's operations and budget to a single campus such as UCLA, or to an independent non-profit 501c3 Foundation as an option.

We note that UC Press is one of the oldest, largest, and most prestigious public university presses in the United States. It is a vital scholarly resource, particularly for Humanities faculty, and plays a central role in UC's status as a world-class public research university. The Press has a \$20 million, largely self-generated, budget and 85 FTE. Its director has historically reported to the systemwide Provost.

We share EDIT's concerns that moving the Press to a single campus could damage its functionality and reputation, dilute its systemwide character, reduce its reach and prestige, and hurt faculty in a broad spectrum of disciplines. It could also hurt the Press financially by forcing it to absorb additional costs for legal, HR and other functions currently provided by UCOP.

Council opposes moving the Press until the University has examined all the organizational and fiscal consequences of doing so, identified advantages beyond those associated with making UCOP appear smaller, given the Press Director adequate time to develop a strategy for the Press's future operation and continued success outside of UCOP, and formally consulted on this foundational question with the Academic Senate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane N. White", enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Shane N. White, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: Provost Brown
Academic Council
Senate Director Baxter
Senate Executive Directors

To: Shane N. White, Chair, Academic Council
From: Andrew Scull, Chair, Editorial Committee, University of California Press
Re; The Future of the Press
June 7, 2018

Dear Shane,

On behalf of the Editorial Committee of the University of California Press, let me say how heartened we are to see the comments Academic Council made to the Huron Report, and to the changes that are contemplated in the operation of the Office of the President. We find ourselves in full agreement with the three principles the Council outlined in its letter of March 9, 2018 to President Napolitano.

One of the proposed changes in the Office of the President centrally concerns the University of California Press, and has prompted two letters to Provost Michael Brown which you may have seen, one signed by all current members of the Editorial Committee, and the other endorsed by no fewer than thirteen former chairs of that committee. These letters express our joint concern that changes are afoot that have the potential to inflict serious, perhaps fatal, damage on the Press, with grave consequences to faculty in a broad spectrum of disciplines, both within and beyond the University of California.

As the University of California celebrates its 150th anniversary, the Press is celebrating its 125th. It ranks among the top half dozen university presses in the country. It is the only one west of Chicago, and the only one attached to a public university.

We have been informed that President Napolitano plans to remove the Press from under the umbrella of the Office of the President, where it reports directly to Provost Michael Brown and the Division of Academic Affairs. Initially, we were informed that this administrative change would be implemented as soon as July 2018. That date is now uncertain, but we have been told that an irrevocable decision has been taken to remove the Press, which is obviously a system-wide entity, from the Office of the President by no later than July 2020. We regard that decision as precipitate and unwise, but have been informed that it will not be reversed.

The initial proposal involved moving a variety of Press functions down to the UCLA campus, while the actual work of the Press continued to be housed in Oakland. Besides being administratively clumsy and probably unworkable for an operation that must generate revenue sufficient to be self-supporting, there were other very damaging aspects of this proposal. Approximately \$500,000 in costs for legal, HR and other functions now provided without cost by the Office of the President were to be transferred to the Press budget, with no long-term provision to fund them, a serious blow. More importantly, besides the terrible optics of locating a University of California Press on a single campus, the Press Director's reporting line was to be transferred from the Provost system-wide to the UCLA librarian. That scarcely exhausts the negative consequences of such a move, which we believe would be catastrophic for the Press's prestige, standing, and future.

We would therefore like to ask the Academic Council to endorse two proposals designed to minimize the damage associated with moving the Press outside the ambit of the Office of the President:

1. That the Council goes on record as opposing the proposed move to UCLA as presently proposed, and rejects the prospect of any plan to remove the Press from the Office of the President until such time as all the implications of such a move have been thoroughly examined, and a properly constituted plan has been adopted to ensure the continued success of this vital part of the University of California.
2. That the Council endorses the plan put forward by the Director of the Press, Tim Sullivan, and unanimously endorsed by the Senate Editorial Committee. This provides for a period extending to the July 2020 imposed by President Napolitano. During that period, the Director has committed to providing periodic updates to the Provost to assure him that the deadline for moving the Press will be met. In return, with suitable assistance from staff at the Office of the President to help to resolve the issues associated with the transfer, the Director is authorized to explore and develop a fully-implementable plan for the Press's future outside the Office of the President. This may involve the construction of an independent non-profit 501c3 corporation – an option explicitly endorsed in the Huron Report, or some properly worked out transfer to operation at one of the UC campuses, provided financial issues can be successfully worked out, and provided that the Press continues to report directly to the Provost of Academic Affairs, as well as, in all probability, the campus Chancellor where the Press is to be housed.

Only these actions, in our judgment, show some prospect of aligning a changed relationship of the Press to the University of California with the principles the Academic Council has already endorsed. I hope you will agree.