

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM
MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2026

PRESENT: Q. McFrederick, Chair & UCAF Rep.; C. Baik; A. Speer; S. Asif, Ex Officio,
Chair of CFW

ABSENT: J. Doyle, Ex Officio, Chair of P&T; D. Baskaran, ASUCR Rep.; K. Carstens,
GSA Rep.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 2:00 PM.

The minutes of the October 13, 2025 meeting were approved as written.

The Chair and UCR representative to the University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) informed the Committee that they were not able to attend the December UCAF meeting but will review the video recording of the meeting and report back to the Committee on the topics discussed. The Chair informed the Committee that UCAF's response to the proposed policy for extramural speech made a great impact and has influenced positive changes. UCAF included an agenda item for their December meeting and the Chair recommended that the Committee have a similar discussion at the next meeting with the student representatives.

The Committee reviewed the administration's response to the Senate review of UCR Interim Policies Related to Expressive Activities on Campus (700-20, 700-50, and 700-70) and the Chair noted that CAF's concerns were addressed in the response. Concern was noted that core policies were kept intact despite documented concerns from the Senate. The Committee discussed shared governance and recommended that a representative from the Riverside Faculty Association be invited to the next meeting to discuss how to advocate for better shared governance.

The Committee reviewed the administration's response to the memo from the Committees on Academic Freedom, Faculty Welfare, and Privilege and Tenure requesting confirmation if UCR campus community members were disclosed to the Department of Education, which confirmed that UCR disclosed no names of UCR campus community members.

The Committee reviewed the Academic Senate Workgroup on Artificial Intelligence (AI) report and discussed the report's recommendations. The Committee discussed the concerns about the use of AI on campus and the effects it is having on students and academic integrity. The Chair recommended that the Committee review the report and identify areas that affect academic freedom. The Chair will create a Google doc for the Committee to add their feedback to draft a response.

In the new business section of the agenda, the Committee discussed the impact on VISA restrictions on faculty and students and erosion of academic freedom at other Universities across the country.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:23 PM.

Approved: April 7, 2026

Prepared by: Beth Beatty