



**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

March 29, 2022

To: Jason Stajich, Chair  
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Ivy Zhang, Chair  
Committee on Academic Freedom

**Re: Proposed Presidential Policy on University of California Research Data**

The Committee on Academic Freedom reviewed the proposed Presidential Policy on University of California Research Data at their March 22, 2022 meeting.

The Committee's concerns and recommendations focus on the following four issues:

1. The Committee expresses concerns about accessing archived research data. The Committee recommends that the policy be updated to clarify whether the Regents of the University or the principal investigator has the authority to grant access, especially when the data access request involves public interests or after a principal investigator leaves the University. The committee notes the need to properly protect academic freedom and intellectual properties in the process of granting access to research data.

2. The Committee expresses concerns about the following statement:

“Any individual who leaves the University, whether to move to another institution or because of retirement or separation, must arrange with their school, department or center for the storage of any Research Data that remain at the University in accordance with any policy adopted by the applicable school, department or center.” (p. 6)

Specifically, the Committee notes the lack of clarity in “any policy adopted by the applicable school, department or center” and the potential of such policy affecting academic freedom. The Committee recommends that the proposal clarify the responsibilities of the University in maintaining the research data after a principal investigator leaves the University.

3. The Committee recommends that the proposed policy be updated to provide greater clarity regarding the boundaries of Research Data. For example, the Committee believes that more detail should be provided on how research data of collaborative research projects involving researchers from other institutions should be managed.

4. The Committee notes the potentially significant costs to faculty of implementing the proposed policy. The Committee believes that sufficient support should be provided for data storage and security as defined in the policy.