

March 1, 2024

TO: Sang-Hee Lee, Ph.D., Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Marcus Kaul, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, UCR School of Medicine

SUBJECT: Response to Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites

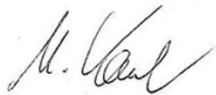
Dear Sang-Hee,

The SOM Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the Proposed Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites.

The Committee identified challenges with the policy. The Committee expressed concern that the policy does not differentiate between personal statements and statements related to research which in factual context may be viewed as political or controversial.

The policy leaves the decision of whether or not a posting complies with the policy to a website administrator. It is completely unclear how a website administrator or anyone who can decide what remains on the website will be trained and qualified to decide what is appropriate or not? Website administrators are not automatically subject matter experts. The Committee believes the proposed policy has high potential to compromise academic freedom. In order to report on controversial issues one must be allowed to reference the issue. Websites are modes of communication, so the Committee asked if there will be communication and justification when removing content from the website. The Committee asked what the consequences are and at what point does faculty have a say to explain the content. Finally, is there an appeal process for the removal of content?

Yours sincerely,



Marcus Kaul, Ph.D.
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee School of Medicine