

January 4, 2022

University of California Board of Regents:

Regent Howard “Peter” Guber

Regent Sherry L. Lansing

Regent Rich Leib, Vice Chair

Regent John A. Pérez

Regent Richard Sherman

Dear University of California Board of Regents members,

The undersigned, constituting the Ad Hoc Faculty Committee for Academic Integrity at UCLA, wish to express our concern and request clarification from the University of California Board of Regents regarding the December 2, 2021 [letter](#) from the University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF). It is our understanding that through this letter and its recommendations UCAF grants UC academic departments the right to issue and endorse official statements on controversial political issues in the name of the academic department as well as the right to utilize exclusive university assets such as email listservs and official UC webpages and social media accounts when doing so.

For background, in July 2021, this Committee sent an [open letter](#) to UC President Drake expressing our indignation at a hateful and offensive [Statement of Solidarity with Palestine](#) issued by the UCLA Asian American Studies Department. Statements such as this use exclusive academic department access to university assets in order to disseminate politicized communications to students and faculty while simultaneously marginalizing members of the campus based on their Jewish protected ethnic identity and Israeli national origin. Furthermore, as emphasized in our open letter, we believe these statements violate both UCLA policy and California law. UCAF’s letter and recommendations appear to grant academic departments the green light to violate these policies with impunity.

As such, we respectfully request that the University of California Board of Regents review this matter and provide critically needed clarification, specifically answering:

1. Whether the UCAF recommendation permitting academic departments to issue or endorse statements on controversial political issues comports with [California Education Code](#), Section 92000(a)(1), which expressly prohibits the use of the University of California name in connection with political purposes without the permission of the Regents of the University of California? If so, how?
2. Whether the UCAF recommendation permitting academic departments to issue or endorse statements on controversial political issues is mere guidance for each UC campus or stated policy across the board? This is especially important given that the recommendations contained within the UCAF’s letter are directly at odds with

many existing university policies, such as [UCLA Policy 110](#), which prohibits use of university assets for political purposes without prior written approval.

Thank you in advance for your time, attention and consideration of this urgent and timely topic.

Sincerely,

The Ad hoc Faculty Committee for Academic Integrity\*:

Yoram Cohen, Distinguished Professor Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Leonard Kleinrock, Distinguished Professor Emeritus Department of Computer Science

Mark Kligman, Professor, School of Music Chair, Department of Ethnomusicology

Joseph H. Manson, Professor, Department of Anthropology

Daniel J.B. Mitchell, Professor, Anderson Graduate School of Management and the Luskin School of Public Affairs

Neil W. Netanel, Professor, School of Law

Judea Pearl, Chancellor Professor Departments of Computer Science and Statistics

Robert E. Reiter, MD, Professor of Urology and Molecular Biology Chief, Division of Urologic Oncology

Shimon Weiss, Distinguished Professor Departments of Chemistry & Biochemistry and Physiology

\*Department affiliation for identification only