



DAVIS DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8502
(530) 752-2220
academicsenate.ucdavis.edu

November 17, 2016

Jim Chalfant

Chair, Academic Council

RE: Presidential Policy on International Activities

Dear Jim:

The proposed Presidential Policy on International Activities was forwarded to all standing committees of the Davis Division. Responses were received from the Committees on Academic Freedom and Responsibility, Faculty Welfare, International Education, Research, and the Faculty Executive Committee of the College of Letters and Science.

The Committees on Academic Freedom and Responsibility, Faculty Welfare, International Education, and Research support the proposed policy. Academic Freedom and Responsibility recommends adding clarification to Section III.E.2 so that it explicitly permits “faculty actively researching the methods of, or doing fieldwork with a group, in the U.S. or abroad, that is engaged in electoral politics directly or indirectly.”

The FEC of the College of Letters and Science commented on several items. Its members expressed concern about the broad scope of “international activities” that require approval from an Executive Officer, as outlined in Section V.F.3.iii. They recommend including more specific criteria for when “international activities” require approval, so faculty can avoid being “in constant violation or constantly needing approval for more mundane international activities as this could delay timely communications and scholarship.”

The FEC of L&S recommends two additional clarifications: first, to clarify when a formal risk assessment is required (they also wonder if filing a risk assessment makes “the faculty member liable for the risk in engaging in international activities”); and second, to clarify whether paperwork for approval to travel to domestic versus international conferences would now be different since the latter is an international activity.

The Davis Division appreciates the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachael E. Goodhue".

Rachael E. Goodhue
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Professor and Chair, Agricultural and Resource Economics

Enclosed: Davis Division Committee Responses

c: Edwin M. Arevalo, Executive Director, Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Hilary Baxter, Executive Director, Systemwide Academic Senate
Michael LaBriola, Principal Policy Analyst, Systemwide Academic Senate