



April 12, 2022

Updated membership

Diana Harvey, Associate Vice Chancellor for Communications and Public Affairs (co-chair)

Mary Ann Smart, Vice Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate (co-chair)

Geeta Anand, Dean, School of Journalism

Richard Allen, Interim Dean, Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Leonardo Arriola, Associate Dean of Social Sciences, Associate Professor of Political Science, Director of the Center for African Studies

Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean, School of Law

Sean Gailmaid, Professor of Political Science and Chair, Committee on Academic Freedom, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

Khira Griscavage, Associate Chancellor

Margaret Hunter, Senior Director of the Centers for Educational Justice and Community Engagement

Dania Matos, Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion

Dan Mogulof, Assistant Vice Chancellor

David Robinson, Chief Campus Counsel

Lok Siu, Associate Professor of Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies

Ellen Topp, Director of Communications, Division of Student Affairs

Leti Volpp, Professor of Law and Director, Center for Race and Gender Studies

RE: Joint Senate-Administration workgroup on the role of the university and its units in political and social action

Dear Colleagues,

We write to invite you to serve on a short-term joint Senate-Administration workgroup to recommend: 1) a draft set of principles and issues to consider when the university and its units are commenting on matters about which people have deeply held views; and, 2) resources for operational unit and academic department officials to help them consider when and how to issue statements about current events and subjects about which people are known to disagree on behalf of their units. We ask for your report by May 15, 2022. The group should also provide feedback on the [recommendations](#) from the systemwide University Committee on Academic Freedom before March 22, 2022.

Although this is driven in part by statements posted recently on academic department websites at several campuses regarding events in the middle east, the issues of individual academic freedom, free speech, institutional censorship, community, diversity, inclusion, and justice are timeless. As such, your recommendations should not focus on a specific communications medium or issue. You should aim for your recommendations to stand the test of time, adaptable to changing communications technologies and future external social and political events.

In doing so, we suggest that you review [similar statements](#) developed by other universities and that may exist or presently be under development at other University of California campuses and on behalf of the [University of California systemwide](#). We have enclosed several such statements for your review.

Sincerely,



Carol T. Christ
Chancellor



Catherine P. Koshland
Interim Executive Vice Chancellor
and Provost



Ron Cohen,
Chair, Berkeley Division of the
Academic Senate

Enclosures:

[Kalven Committee Report on the Role of the University in Political and Social Action](#)
[Draft system wide statement](#)

[Universities Try to Force a Consensus About Kyle Rittenhouse](#) (Conor Friedersdorf, The Atlantic)