



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

October 16, 2026

CHANCELLORS
ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR SUSANNAH SCOTT
LABORATORY DIRECTOR KATHERINE YELICK
ANR VICE PRESIDENT GLENDA HUMISTON

**RE: SYSTEMWIDE REVIEW OF PROPOSED GUIDELINES ON
EXTRAMURAL SPEECH AND SIGNIFICANT INTRUSION OF MATERIAL
UNRELATED TO THE COURSE UNDER APM - 015**

Dear Colleagues:

Enclosed for systemwide review are proposed guidelines on extramural speech and APM - 015, The Faculty Code of Conduct, Section II.A.1(b) in relation to what may or may not constitute “significant intrusion of material unrelated to the course.”

These proposed systemwide guidelines were developed by a Joint Senate-Administration Taskforce on Expressive Activities, the successor to a Joint Senate-Administration Workgroup that was charged in 2024 with developing recommendations to help the University comply with California’s Budget Act of 2024 (SB 108). Specifically, the 2024 Joint Senate-Administration Workgroup was asked to determine whether University policies (a) needed to be revised to cover expressive activities, and (b) could be designed to provide greater systemwide consistency in response to policy violations. The 2024 Joint Senate-Administration Workgroup concluded that existing University policies already address expressive activities, but recommended issuing systemwide guidelines to help calibrate disciplinary actions and promote greater consistency across campuses following a finding of a policy violation in relation to expressive activities. Interim systemwide guidelines were issued in June 2025, followed by systemwide review of the interim guidelines between August and November 2025. During systemwide review, faculty expressed a need for systemwide guidance on what may or may not constitute an APM - 015 policy violation related to expressive activities.

Following issuance of the final systemwide guidelines to help calibrate disciplinary actions following a finding of a policy violation related to expressive activities in February 2026, then-Provost and Executive Vice President Katherine Newman and then-Academic Council Chair Ahmet Palazoglu charged a Joint Senate-Administration Taskforce on Expressive Activities with developing systemwide guidance on what may or may not constitute a policy violation related to extramural speech and “significant intrusion of material unrelated to the course.” The Taskforce was co-chaired by University Committee on Privilege and Tenure Chair Michael Robinson-Dorn and Vice Provost Monica Varsanyi.

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The Taskforce met on nine occasions between February and June 2026 and developed draft systemwide guidelines consisting of 16 FAQs and an appendix of relevant policy provisions. The FAQs build upon prior work developed by Professor Brian Soucek and Professor Seana Shiffrin during the University's 2024 systemwide review and are organized into two sections: extramural speech and significant intrusion of material unrelated to the course. The FAQs are intended to provide guidance to faculty and administrators on how existing University policies may apply in common situations involving extramural speech and courses. Both sections of the FAQs address illustrative scenarios, explain how existing University policy may apply in those circumstances, and identify when the conduct may or may not provide the basis for potential discipline under APM - 015. The Appendix to the FAQs includes excerpts from relevant University policies, including [APM - 010, Academic Freedom](#); [APM - 015, The Faculty Code of Conduct](#); and [Regents Policy 2301, Policy on Course Content](#). These FAQs provide interpretive guidance regarding the application of existing University policies; they do not establish new policy requirements or standards.

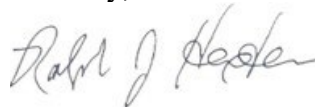
Systemwide Review

Systemwide review is a public review distributed to the Chancellors, the Chair of the Academic Council, the Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and the Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources requesting that they inform the general University community, especially affected employees, about policy proposals. Systemwide review also includes a mandatory, 90-day full Senate review.

Although this is not a policy proposal, employees should be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the draft guidelines, available on the [Systemwide Academic Personnel website](#). Attached is a Model Communication which may be used to inform non-exclusively represented employees about the draft guidelines. Systemwide Labor Relations at the Office of the President is responsible for informing the bargaining units representing union membership.

We would appreciate receiving your comments no later than January 29, 2027. Please submit your comments to SystemwideAP-PolicyReviewComments@ucop.edu. Please indicate "FAQs" in the subject line. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Woolston, Associate Director, Academic Policy and Policy Exceptions, at Rebecca.Woolston@ucop.edu.

Sincerely,



Ralph J. Hexter
Interim Provost and
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Enclosures:

- (1) Draft Systemwide Guidelines on Extramural Speech and Significant Intrusion of Material Unrelated to the Course
- (2) Model Communication

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cc: President Milliken
Executive Vice Chancellors/Provosts
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Nava
Executive Vice President Rubin
Senior Vice President and Chief Compliance & Audit Officer Bustamante
Vice President Brown
Vice President Gullatt
Vice President Henderson
Vice President and Chief of Staff Kao
Vice President Maldonado
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Managing Counsel Meltzer
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Labor Relations Manager Ishaya
Policy Analyst Durrin
Research and Policy Analyst Sali
Policy Analyst Wilson
Program Policy Analyst D'Agostino