

# OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

## Legal Advisory

January 21, 2011

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[www.ucop.edu/ogc](http://www.ucop.edu/ogc)

### SUMMARY

White House directs changes to regulations and policies to promote educational exchange between accredited colleges and universities and Cuba.

If you have any questions regarding the impact of President Obama's steps to promote educational exchange with Cuba, please contact:

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## WHITE HOUSE DIRECTIVE TO PROMOTE HIGHER ED EXCHANGE WITH CUBA

On January 14, 2011, President Obama directed the Secretaries of State, Treasury, and Homeland Security to make changes to existing regulations and policies to enhance the free flow of information and greater "people-to-people" contact with the citizens of Cuba. Changes to existing regulations are expected to facilitate educational and student exchange programs by accredited colleges and universities in the United States.

Specifically, the White House directed that regulations and policies governing purposeful travel be modified to, among other things:

- **Facilitate educational exchanges** by allowing accredited institutions of higher education to sponsor travel to Cuba for course work for academic credit under a general license; allowing students to participate through academic institutions other than their own; and facilitating instructor support to include support from adjunct and part-time staff.
- **Restore specific licensing of educational exchanges** not involving academic study pursuant to a degree program under the auspices of an organization that sponsors and organizes people-to-people programs.
- **Modify requirements for licensing academic exchanges** to require that the proposed course of study be accepted for academic credit toward their undergraduate or graduate degree (rather than regulating the length of the academic exchange in Cuba).
- **Allow specifically licensed academic institutions to sponsor** or cosponsor academic seminars, conferences, and workshops related to Cuba and allow faculty, staff, and students to attend.
- **Allow specific licensing to organize or conduct non-academic clinics** and workshops in Cuba for the Cuban people.

It should be noted that **the United States embargo remains in effect**. The White House reported that the changes described above will be enacted through modifications to existing Cuban Assets Control and Customs and Border Protection regulations and policies and will take effect upon publication of modified regulations in the Federal Register within two weeks.

University faculty and program offices are encouraged to review relevant regulations and policies and consult with the Office of the General Counsel or the appropriate campus compliance officer to ensure compliance with the new regulations.

The January 14, 2011 White House Press Release, describing the changes the President has directed regarding purposeful travel, remittances, and U.S. airports can be seen at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/01/14/reaching-out-cuban-people>.