

Working Group: Statement on Statements June 2024

Charge

The Statement on Statements Working Group is charged with recommending guidelines for when the institutional voice of UCLA should and should not be utilized to address societal, political and public matters.

The working group's evaluation of this matter should be rooted in UCLA's mission:

UCLA's primary purpose as a public research university is the creation, dissemination, preservation and application of knowledge for the betterment of our global society. To fulfill this mission, UCLA is committed to academic freedom in its fullest terms: We value open access to information, free and lively debate conducted with mutual respect for individuals, and freedom from intolerance. In all of our pursuits, we strive for excellence and diversity, recognizing that openness and inclusion produce true quality. These values underlie our three institutional responsibilities: education, research and public service.

The working group is asked to craft and complete their recommendation by August 30, 2024.

The report should include:

1. A philosophy on when the university ought to issue official public statements.
 - Specific parameters defining the societal, political and public matters that would necessitate official public statements from the university.
 - An analysis of the consequences and implications that arise from such expression.

2. A philosophy on when the university ought to refrain from issuing official public statements.
 - Specific parameters defining the societal, political and public matters that would not warrant official public statement from the university.
 - A succinct statement to help the university community and the university's external constituents understand the rationale for not issuing public statements in these cases.
 - An analysis of the consequences and implications that arise from such restraint of expression.
 - The working group's process should include consultation with the academic senate, data collection to garner the opinion of key constituents and an analysis of the practices and policies of other universities.