April 28, 2015

To: Joel Aberbach, Chair
   UCLA Academic Senate

From: Miguel Unzueta, Chair
      Council on Research

Re: Proposed Amendments to Senate Bylaw 182

Dear Joel,

At its meeting on April 20, 2015, the Council on Research reviewed and discussed the Proposed Amendments to Senate Bylaw 182. Members agreed with the sentiments expressed in the introductory paragraphs regarding the increase in international research collaborations, the importance of these collaborations to the University, and the need for the Senate to play a role in shaping policies related to these changes. However, concerns were expressed about the reporting functions spelled out in section 182.B.2.i and if it would impose additional requirements on faculty and students engaging in international collaborative research to report to the committee on these activities, or if the committee has a means of obtaining this information in order to report to the Academic Council or other agencies. Clarification on this item, including what means will be employed to gather this information, and what specifically is defined as “International Research” will assist in directing the changing role of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and opine on the issue. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (x66570; miguel.unzueta@anderson.ucla.edu) or Academic Senate MSO|EA, Serge Chenkerian (x63802; schenkerian@senate.ucla.edu).

Sincerely,

Miguel Unzueta, Chair
Council on Research

cc: Leo Estrada, Vice Chair, Academic Senate
    Jan Reiff, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
    Linda Mohr, CAO, Academic Senate
April 27, 2015

Joel Aberbach, Chair
Academic Senate, Los Angeles Division

Re: Proposed Revision to Senate Bylaw 182, University Committee on International Education

Dear Joel,

The Undergraduate Council (UgC), at its meeting on April 24, 2015, reviewed the proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 182, University Committee on International Education (UCIE). Council members noted the sizeable expansion in scope that would accompany these bylaw revisions. Many of the areas the new bylaws would cover, such as faculty research, already have healthy oversight. Ultimately, the revisions privilege the international nature of many aspects of life and work in the UC system. For example, international research is conceived first as “international” and only second as “research.”

Importantly, these revisions leave unclear the reporting responsibility of the various divisions. For example, since UCIE would need to advise the University Administration on the “Participation of UC faculty and/or students in international exchange agreements,” would UCLA have to seek UCIE’s opinion and/or approval for agreements made between our campus and international institutions? The Undergraduate Council has approved three such agreements in the last two years and we question the value of seeking UCIE input.

The Council noted, also, that in May 2003 the UCIE bylaws were amended to rescind the delegation of Education Abroad Program (EAP) course and curricula authorization to the divisions. We believe that oversight of the EAP is rightly done centrally by UCIE, but do not believe this centralization is beneficial for international matters that affect only one campus. We believe the proposed revisions should include a statement about local divisions’ ability to manage international agreements that only affect one campus.

If you have any questions, please contact me (x69449; jwg@chem.ucla.edu) or Undergraduate Council Analyst Matt Robinson (x51194; mrobinson@senate.ucla.edu).

Sincerely,

Jim Gober, Chair
Undergraduate Council

cc: Serge Chenkerian, MSO/Executive Assistant, Academic Senate
    Linda Mohr, CAO, Academic Senate
    Matt Robinson, Committee Analyst, Academic Senate
April 29, 2015

To: Joel Aberbach, Chair
   Academic Senate

From: Alex Bui, Chair
      Graduate Council

Re: Proposed Amendment to Senate Bylaw 182 “University Committee on International Education”

At its meeting on April 17, 2015, the Graduate Council reviewed and briefly discussed the proposed amendment to Senate Bylaw 182 to expand the charge of the University Committee on International Education. In general, members raised no concerns about the proposed change provided curricular authority remains with the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils. However, members also observed that there were several campus and system-wide units and committees that are addressing international research collaborations and the development of agreements between UC campuses and international institutions. As such the scope and charge of UCIE – and the Academic Senate – should be considered amidst this swiftly changing landscape to ensure an appropriate level of faculty oversight. In short, while it will likely be very valuable to have UCIE be the liaising Senate agency for some international policies, it may not be appropriate for others. Consequently, we recommend that as in other matters, the Academic Council leadership retain its long-standing authority under the current bylaws and procedures to determine which Senate committees are most appropriate to engage on specific policy questions.

We also bring to your attention our concern that the proposed language for 182.B.1, by incorporating “and research,” encroaches on matters that are currently within the purview of the Council on Research. The proposed bylaw change would create unnecessary jurisdictional overlap and has the potential to introduce peculiar complexities in the routing and review of research-related issues. We encourage the Council, Committee on Rules & Jurisdiction, and the Academic Council to ensure that the purviews of the system-wide Councils remain appropriately distinct, particularly given that any number of Councils may be asked to opine on specific issues pending before the Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment.

cc:  Serge Chenkerian, MSO, Academic Senate
     Kyle Cunningham, Principal Committee Analyst, Graduate Council
     Linda Mohr, CAO, Academic Senate