February 15, 2017

Jim Chalfant
Chair, Academic Council


Dear Jim,

The Executive Board of the UCLA Academic Senate solicited comments on the Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy Business and Finance Bulletin (BFB) – G-28 Travel Regulations from the standing committees of the Senate, as well as the Faculty Executive Committees, to maximize faculty feedback; the individual responses from our various committees are available online. The Executive Board was unable to meet and discuss the attached responses so they are submitted as received. However, I do want to point out that although several committees reported agreement on the importance of making the policy more inclusive and “family friendly,” there are several comments in the individual responses worthy of note, including:

- Committee on Committees: “seek clarification and urge specificity from proposers with respect to whom will likely benefit from the revisions to the Presidential policy governing travel regulations.”
- Graduate Council: “encourage proposers to consider explicitly including and naming graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in the revised policy: their family responsibilities too often go unseen.”
- Council on Research reports that the wording is unclear, e.g., section V.H.2.f says “limited circumstances”, but is vague on what those are. Also, section VI says the Chancellor can delegate the approval, but does not say to whom he or she may delegate.
- CPB Members noted that the proposed policy lacks clarity and recommended the explicit definition of the ranks impacted by the revisions. What is the primary audience of these revisions? The term “business traveler” (section V.h.2.f.) should be more clearly defined to lessen the misperception and potential abuse.

The Academic Senate leadership appreciates the opportunity to opine and has no additional suggestions.

Please feel free to contact me should have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

cc:  Hilary Baxter, Executive Director, Systemwide Academic Senate
Leo Estrada, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
Sandra Graham, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Michael LaBriola, Principal Policy Analyst, Systemwide Academic Senate
Linda Mohr, Chief Administrative Officer, UCLA Academic Senate
Shane White, Vice Chair, Academic Council