April 25, 2017

To: Susan Cochran, Chair
Academic Senate

From: Jessica Cattelino, Chair
Graduate Council

Re: Proposed Presidential Policy on Export Controls

At its meeting on April 14, 2017, the Graduate Council reviewed and discussed the proposed Presidential Policy on Export Controls. Members would encourage proposers to consider adding an introductory statement to the proposed policy in order to provide more context, as faculty, staff, and students may not be familiar with federal export control laws and regulations or the ways they affect the work of the university. Members would also encourage proposers to communicate how the proposed policy would impact other research areas that are not explicitly identified: currently, the policy is somewhat narrowly focused on science, leaving unclear how forms of research like ethnography (e.g., political or legal anthropology with implications for national security) or other social science and humanities research would be treated under this policy. Members also emphasized the importance of appropriate and transparent administration of the adopted policy given the impact of variable enforcement on faculty and student research activities. Some graduate students have been negatively impacted by existing policy. For example, students have expressed frustration and trouble with the information and guidance provided by local officials with respect to traveling with survey instruments. Therefore, members would urge proposers to work closely with Local Export Control Officers to establish practices and procedures for effective implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment.

cc: Estrella Arciba, Graduate Council Analyst, Academic Senate
Linda Mohr, CAO, Academic Senate