

June 19, 2009

Debra Geller
Chief Administrative Officer
Office of Student and Campus Life

In Re: Registered Campus Organizations (RCO) Security Costs Recovery

Dear Dr. Geller,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and opine upon the proposed revisions to the RCO Security Costs Recovery Policy. Upon receipt of your request, I invited all Academic Senate Committees to opine, and specifically requested responses from the Council on Planning and Budget (CPB; see attached) and the Executive Board, which speaks for the Senate on such matters.

The Academic Senate strongly recommends the following revisions to the policy for your consideration:

1. While criteria have been established, it is not clear from the language which criteria will be applied to determine that extra security will be required. The proposal would be improved by the addition of such language.
2. If an RCO disagrees with the finding that additional security is required, there should be an appeals process outlined.
3. The concern was raised that an RCO could be asked to assume the financial costs of additional security for a particular speaker, when it is not the speaker engendering more security, but indeed the audience, over whom the RCO would have no control. Steps should be taken to limit or remove such liability from the RCO.
4. There was concern that additional assessments for events would be detrimental to RCOs with limited funding. Is there a way to mitigate such an impact?

Thank you again for the opportunity to review and opine upon this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Goldstein
UCLA Academic Senate Chair

Cc: Jaime R. Balboa, CAO, Academic Senate

June 15, 2009

Professor Michael Goldstein
Chair, Academic Senate

RE: RCO (Registered Campus Organizations) Security Costs Policy Update

The Council on Planning and Budget appreciated the opportunity to review the Registered Campus Organizations Security Costs Policy Update. The Council reviewed the item at its meeting on June 1, 2009. Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Janina Montero, attended the CPB meeting to brief members on the changes to the policy.

This policy applies to all on-campus programs and events that are organized and sponsored by Registered Campus Organizations. VC Montero reported that the policy added implementation guidelines, allowing the campus to determine the level of safety services required for individual events. She added that establishing criteria was necessary to impose limits without limiting freedom of speech. This will allow security costs to be borne by the campus group organizing the event.

Several Council members expressed concern on how the University would determine the need for additional security. While criteria have been established, the policy lacks information on which criteria will be applied to determine that extra security will be needed. It was suggested that there be an appeals process if the RCO disagreed with the assessment. One of the student representatives on the Council felt that student groups are made to assume the responsibility for additional security costs based on the speaker for which they have no control over the audience. Further, additional assessments for events would be detrimental to student organizations that do not typically have large funding sources to begin with.

Best regards,



Joseph Bristow
Chair, Council on Planning and Budget

cc: Jaime Balboa, Chief Administrative Officer, Academic Senate
Elizabeth Bjork, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate
Robin Garrell, Vice Chair, Academic Senate
Steve Lippman, Vice Chair, Council on Planning and Budget
Linda Mohr, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Academic Senate