

Regents Policy on Use of University Administrative Websites January 2024

POLICY TEXT

Upholding the values of freedom of speech and inquiry are core to the University of California's mission. Under the First Amendment and principles of academic freedom, faculty members, individually and collectively, have the right to express their views. While individual members of the University community are free to express constitutionally protected viewpoints through all non-official channels of communication, they may not associate the official administrative units of the University with their personal viewpoints. Long-standing principles of academic freedom have recognized that when faculty members speak or write as citizens, they should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

The University of California establishes websites and other official channels of communication maintained by the campuses, schools, departments, centers, units, and other entities ("Units") for purposes of conducting the official business of the University and these Units. Examples of a Units' official business may include delivering informational resources about the Unit, such as course descriptions, and communicating personnel changes, dates of upcoming events, the release of new publications, the issuance of new policies, and similar activities.

The main landing page of a Unit's website shall only be used for purposes of conducting the official business of that Unit. Such page shall not be used for purposes of expressing the personal or collective opinions of Unit members, as other means of publishing those opinions are available. Opinion expressed in locations of the Unit's administrative website other than the main landing page shall bear a disclaimer or other notation making clear that the opinion expressed is that of the author or authors, and does not represent the official views of the University or that Unit.

Nothing in this policy shall limit the following:

1. The use of any privately-maintained resource or other non-University media by any member of the University community for any purpose;
2. Communications by the Chair of the Board of Regents or his or her designee, the President of the University, the Chancellors, and the leadership of the Academic Senate in their respective roles as spokespersons for the University within their areas of responsibility;
3. Communications by UC-affiliated associations or auxiliaries with their constituencies pursuant to their own rules, provided they make clear, as warranted, that viewpoints where expressed do not represent the official views of the University;
4. Authority of the Units to communicate news and events related to faculty research and teaching; or
5. Authority of the Units to adopt additional policies on use of Unit electronic resources provided that any such policies must not reduce or eliminate the limitations contained in this policy.

This policy shall be construed in a manner consistent with the First Amendment and other applicable laws.

COMPLIANCE/DELEGATION

Any questions concerning the application of this policy shall be referred to the administrator

responsible for maintaining the website and such administrator shall be responsible for assuring compliance with this policy.

NO RIGHT OF ACTION

This policy is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the University of California or its Board of Regents, individual Regents, officers, employees, or agents.