



TO: Regents Governance Committee
FROM: Regent Mark VanDriel
DATE: May 13, 2024
RE: Recommended Changes to Regent Policy 1.D: Freedom of Expression

This item proposes adding a new section (G) to Regent Policy 1.D.3 to require that any statement by a member or group of members of the university on matters of social and political concern state that the statement does not represent the opinion, belief, or position of the university.

The proposed changes would require that statements on matters of social or political concern issued by any member or group of members of the university include a disclaimer clarifying that the work does not represent the opinion, belief, or position of the university. Currently, Regent Policy 1.D.3.(D)(3) and (E)(2) require faculty and staff writing about such matters in their personal capacity to “make every effort to indicate that their expression is their own and does not represent the opinion or position of the university....” The proposed changes would more specifically require any member or group of members of the university community speaking on such matters to state that it does not represent the opinion, belief, or position of the university.

Pursuant to Regent Policy 2.N, these proposed changes to Regent Policy 1.D were discussed by the Governance Committee on March 21, 2024, and received Notice of Motion on the April 11-12, 2024, Board meeting agenda. The proposed changes will be further discussed by the Governance Committee at its May 23, 2024, meeting. Accordingly, the proposed changes to Regent Policy 1.D could be considered for a vote by the full board at the June 20-21, 2024, Board of Regents meeting.