

University of Cincinnati Faculty Senate  
Report of the Chair  
February 9, 2017

Good afternoon everyone. The UC campus has been active since our last Senate meeting as students, faculty, and administrators attempt to process and respond to federal directives. The presence of persons who are not related to the university openly carrying guns on the Clifton campus has deepened concerns about how to keep the university community open yet safe.

- **Campus Protests** – As I indicated in my recent letter to faculty, the UC administration anticipates that this may be a period of increased protests on campus. The country is deeply divided, and the rhetoric during and following the election has caused considerable concern for many. In anticipation of this possibility, Provost Landgren formed a response team several weeks ago to ensure that the safety of students and all members of the university community is maintained. I am a member of that committee, along with public safety administrators, university administrators, and student and faculty representatives. The goal is to ensure students' rights to express their viewpoints while ensuring their safety.
- **Guns on campus** - On January 20, a group of about 100 students held a protest on the Clifton campus. Two men from outside of the university used this as a pretext to bring open carry guns onto campus and advocate their cause. UC administration and Campus Security were aware in advance of the demonstration and had ample security monitoring the situation, albeit many officers were in plain clothes. Faculty and students were not alerted in order to not draw additional attention to the men carrying guns. This caused alarm for students and faculty, who did not expect to see armed men on campus.

In light of the concern this situation caused, a decision was made to notify the entire UC community in the future when the university has knowledge that is pertinent to the safety of all members of the UC community, such as an open-carry presence on the campus and similar activity. This will be a carefully worded email message (to differentiate from the emergency text system) notifying the community of the necessary facts. A communications update will be provided if facts change in any given situation. This is what occurred yesterday afternoon when students once again held a protest, and once again an individual openly carried a gun onto campus.

This is a difficult situation for UC Public Safety. The concern is that the alert email goes out to 50,000 people, which gives attention and motivation for non-university individuals to continue to bring guns onto campus.

If students, staff, or faculty observe someone bring a gun onto campus, they should notify UC Public Safety: Clifton West (556-1111); Clifton East (558-1111); Blue Ash (745-5707), Clermont (732-5295). They will monitor the situation and determine if notification of the UC Community is warranted. In an emergency situation, call 911.

This is a summary of rules governing guns on UC campuses:

- Firearms are prohibited in all campus buildings.

- UC students, faculty and staff are not permitted to carry or possess firearms on campus. This includes guns locked in cars on campus.
  - Ohio law forbids anyone to open carry certain types of firearms, such as fully automatic weapons.
  - Ohio law allows open carry in public spaces. Because UC is a public university, this applies to open spaces on campus. Non-university individuals can open carry in these areas.
  - Please visit [http://www.uc.edu/publicsafety/staying-safe/OC\\_FAQ.html](http://www.uc.edu/publicsafety/staying-safe/OC_FAQ.html) for more information.
- **International Students and International Study** – The executive order from the President of the United States that barred individuals from seven countries from entering the United States caused tremendous concern among international students, students and faculty studying and conducting research abroad, and students and faculty who are concerned that the policy violates the rights of the individuals who are affected. Although federal courts have temporarily issued a stay in the implementation of this executive order, concern remains high regarding the effect this may have on the university community. Faculty Senate will vote on a resolution of support for the continued privilege to travel to and from the United States for anyone who has not been determined to be a risk to security.
  - **Sanctuary Campus** – Senate has also received questions and concerns from faculty who are worried about the status of students who have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status, and whether UC will join other institutions who have declared themselves to be Sanctuary campuses. The Ohio Faculty Council, which represents the Faculty Senates of all Ohio state universities,
    - has issued a resolution of support for DACA students and passage of the Bridge Act (Bar Removal of Individuals Who Dream of Growing our Economy). UC’s position statement on international and DACA students can be found on the UC International website.
  - **Arrival of President Neville Pinto** – The new President of the University of Cincinnati, Dr. Neville Pinto, will begin his work here on February 21. I have already met with him. As a long-time faculty member, Dr. Pinto values and supports shared governance. I have let him know that concerns about international and DACA students are a high priority for faculty.
  - **Notification of Student Withdrawals** – Registrar Doug Burgess has communicated that Catalyst functionality now will send an email notification to course instructors when a student in his/her class withdraws. That function was not ready for Fall but is operational now.
  - **Fall Reading Days** – Last Fall, both Veteran’s Day and Reading Days occurred on Friday. With the addition of Thanksgiving, this resulted in three missed instructional days for Friday classes. The same situation will occur next Fall. For this reason, Reading Days will be moved to Monday and Tuesday.
  - **Spring Elections** – Nominations are now open for the positions of Faculty Senate Chair-Elect, Secretary, and one Board of Trustees representative. Nominations are also open for four At-Large Senators and seven members of the Grievance Committee, including the

Committee Co-Coordinator. The first round of nominations will close on March 3 at 5:00. Following the March 3 deadline, nominations by petition, which must be signed by 25 faculty members, will be accepted. The petition period will be March 13-April 1. Additional nominations can be made from the floor at the All-University Faculty meeting, which will be held on either April 18 or April 19, 2017. Faculty may self-nominate or be nominated by a colleague. If nominating a colleague, please confirm his/her *willingness and to serve* and *ability to fulfill the duties of the position* prior to nominating. Questions can be directed to Tamika Odum, Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, at [Tamika.odum@uc.edu](mailto:Tamika.odum@uc.edu).

Faculty have also been notified about the Senate Standing Committees and All-University Committees will also be held this Spring. Positions for 7 Senate Standing Committees and 18 All-University Committees are open. Nominations for these committees will not open until February 28. Questions can be directed to Marla Hall, Chair of the Senate Committee on Committees, at [marla.hall@uc.edu](mailto:marla.hall@uc.edu).

Inform faculty from your colleges about these positions and encourage them to consider running.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Moomaw, Chair