

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM (CAF)
ANNUAL REPORT
AY 2025-2026

The Committee on Academic Freedom (CAF) reviews and makes recommendations with respect to any University-related issues that may affect the academic freedom of the University Community. Academic Freedom includes, but is not necessarily limited to, free inquiry and exchange of ideas, the rights to present material relevant to a course of instruction, to publish or disseminate controversial material or information and to perform research in academic areas. CAF maintains liaison with the [University Committee on Academic Freedom](#) (UCAF) and with the Protest Oversight Group (POG).

CAF Organization and Representation on Campus and Systemwide Committees:

- University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) – Chair Patti LiWang (SNS)
- Protest Oversight Group (POG) – Member Maria-Elena Young

CAF received regular updates on relevant campus and systemwide activities from UC Merced faculty serving on the University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) and the UC Merced Protest Oversight Group (POG).

CAF has consulted with key campus stakeholders on a variety of issues related to academic freedom:

- VPAP Tom Hansford - APM-036, General University Policy Regarding Academic Appointees/ Employment, and possible intersections between academic freedom and a potential UAW strike.
- AVPAP Anna Song – Campus review of APM 016

CAF Discussion and Action Items:

- On September 24, 2025, CAF discussed UC Berkeley’s Release of Faculty, Student, and Staff Names to the Department of Education.
- On December 8, 2025, CAF discussed the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) v. Trump Lawsuit.
- On December 8, 2025, and February 5, 2026, CAF discussed faculty experiences with printer access and support services provided by the Office of Information Technology (OIT), including concerns about how equipment and service issues may affect academic and research independence.
- On May 13, 2026, CAF transmitted a memo to Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer (VCCIO) Nick Dugan, EVC/Provost Dumont, and Senate Chair Mitchell regarding a request for clarification of the digital accessibility requirements.

CAF offered comments on the following campus-wide review items:

- UCM Interim Policy on Micromobility Devices: Electric Scooters & E-Bikes (11/7)
- Proposed Revisions to MAPP 016 (Discipline), 2012 (Recruitment), and 6001 (Endowed Chairs & Scholarships) (1/13)
- UCM Interim Policy on Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct (2/6)
- Generative AI (GenAI) Educational Policy (5/26)

CAF offered comments on the following systemwide review items:

- Proposed Revisions to APM 015, APM 016 and Review of Interim Systemwide Guidelines

- on Faculty Discipline (9/22)
- UCAD Interim Report and Recommendations (9/22)
- APM-036, General University Policy Regarding Academic Appointees/ Employment (11/7)
- Presidential Policy on Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct (UC Research Misconduct Policy) (11/7)
- Systemwide Policies Applying to the University of California Police Department (UCPD) (5/26)

Respectfully Submitted:

CAF Members:

Patti LiWang, Chair, School of Natural Sciences, UCAF Representative

Charlie Eaton, Vice Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Maria-Elena Young, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Hirosha Geekiyanage, School of Engineering

Ex-Officio:

Tom Hansford, Vice Provost for Academic Personnel

Staff:

Fatima Paul, Executive Director, Academic Senate

Melanie Snyder, Senate Senior Analyst, Academic Senate