

## **Statement on Participation in University Functions**

University functions and events are instrumental to the University's mission of teaching, research, engagement, and public service. The University has an obligation to foster a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all participants.

UC Merced faculty, staff, and students are entitled to attend and participate fully in all University functions and events to which they are invited, including, but not limited to, open forums, public lectures, convocations, commencements, town halls, and recruitment events such as Bobcat Day. Participation and engagement in campus events is fundamental to advancing the tripartite mission of the University and may only be curtailed in circumstances in which an individual is alleged to be in violation of University policy.

Transparency and accountability in these matters are essential. In the event that a faculty member is requested to leave a University function or event, they will be verbally informed at that time of the specific reason for their removal, based on a documented determination that a policy violation has occurred, or on a reasonable and clearly articulated basis to believe a violation has taken place, consistent with existing policies and principles of due process.

Following any such removal, the affected faculty member will be provided written documentation of the action taken, the University policy allegedly violated, and the authorizing individual within seven days of the event.