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SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95064

Office of the Academic Senate
SANTA CRUZ DIVISION
125 CLARK KERR HALL
(831) 459 - 2086

June 16, 2022

Robert Horwitz, Chair
Academic Council

Re: Proposed Presidential Policy on Affiliations with Certain Healthcare Organizations

Dear Robert,

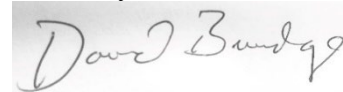
The Santa Cruz Academic Senate has reviewed your request for review of the Presidential Policy on Affiliations with Certain Healthcare Organizations. The Committees on Affirmative Action and Diversity (CAAD), Faculty Welfare (CFW), and Rules, Jurisdiction and Elections (RJ&E) have responded. Although our Division wholly supports the intention of the policy to protect and advance the University's values and its commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and accountability, with Dominican Hospital being the only hospital in Santa Cruz, responding committees raised genuine concerns about the potential for the policy to affect UCSC employee access to healthcare, either immediately, or in the future.

Healthcare access for UCSC employees is precarious due to limited provider access and cost, and systemwide level decisions do not always consider the unique needs of our campus. The Santa Cruz Division acknowledges that UC medical center and health professional school affiliations with healthcare organizations, and UC employee healthcare and associated plans, are two separate issues. However, they are not entirely unrelated. For instance, the definition of "affiliation" in the interim policy could be interpreted as including employee healthcare plans and administration, if not now, then sometime in the future. As such, the only way to ensure that employee healthcare will not be negatively affected by this proposed policy is to add explicit language that differentiates and guarantees that employee healthcare does not apply. The Santa Cruz Division strongly recommends the addition of text that provides this guarantee, and would support the policy with this addition.

In order to ensure that all services and procedures are fully supported, an additional recommendation was made to more clearly articulate what is meant by "services like abortion, contraception, assisted reproductive technologies, gender-affirming care, and end of life care" on the Covered Organization Affiliation Agreement Checklist.

Thank you for the opportunity to opine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Brundage". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

David Brundage, Chair
Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

cc: Kirsten Silva Guesz, Chair, Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity
Nico Orlandi, Chair, Committee on Faculty Welfare
Kenneth Pedrotti, Chair, Rules, Jurisdiction and Elections
Matthew Mednick, Executive Director, Academic Senate