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Office of the Academic Senate
SANTA CRUZ DIVISION
125 CLARK KERR HALL
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February 20, 2024

JAMES STEINTRAGER
Chair, Academic Council

Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-46 Use of University Vehicles

Dear James,

The Santa Cruz Division of the Academic Senate has completed its review of the proposed Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-46 Use of University Vehicles, the Committee on Research (COR) providing comment. Overall, the committee found the proposed policy to be reasonable but overbroad with regard to special circumstances that arise in the course of research projects. Specifically, COR noted that further refinement in key areas of the proposed policy is needed, and offered the following observations:

- A definition for the term “University Business” should be provided in Section II since it is used extensively throughout the document. It is not clear what categories of activities this term is meant to cover.
- Of particular concern is section III.C.3 on “Infrequent Drivers”, which could be read to apply very broadly. For example, do these requirements apply to university employees driving (on extramural-grant-funded travel) to the airport or field locations in their private vehicles? What about independent contractors who are paid by the university to help on a research project for a short period of time, and need to drive equipment or personnel? Do the same requirements apply to drivers of rental vehicles?
- What effect will classification of university personnel as “infrequent drivers” (or other classifications) have on individual liability while driving on university business?

On behalf of the Santa Cruz Division, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed policy.

Sincerely,

Patty Gallagher, Chair
Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

cc: Michael Hance, Chair, Committee on Research
Raphael Kudela, Chair, Committee on Planning and Budget
Eleonora Pasotti, Chair, Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction and Elections
Matthew Mednick, Executive Director, Academic Senate