TO: Board of Regent Laws & Policies Stakeholders
FROM: Michael Lightner, Vice President for Academic Affairs
        Jill Taylor, Director of Academic Program and Policy Analysis
DATE: April 12, 2018
RE: Recommended Changes to Article 7 and Related Policies – 2nd DRAFT

Background
The regent laws and policies review project is driven by the guiding principle that laws should capture only high-level statements on governance and policies should include the necessary elaborations of law but no more. The goal is to focus on the powers and responsibilities of the Board of Regents while assigning operational procedures to Administrative Policy Statements (APS) or campus policy. This goal will be pursued while keeping in mind protections currently afforded to members of the university community.

The laws and policies under the main purview of academic affairs are being reviewed comprehensively. In this case, draft revisions of laws and policies related to students (currently Article 7 and policies 7A-7C) are being presented together.

Revision and Review Process
The proposed revisions are being shared with student governance groups, faculty governance groups, and posted on a public website. The first draft of the revised version of Article 7 and the related policies was released on February 12 with a 45-day review period during which students, faculty, and other interested parties could provide feedback.

This second draft was produced after reviewing comments provided in response to the first draft. A 30-day review period is being provided, after which a final draft will be developed and submitted to the Board of Regents Governance Committee for consideration. If the Governance Committee endorses the recommendations presented at that time, the document will go to the full board for consideration.

It is likely that the changes ultimately adopted by the Board of Regents will require changes to existing APSs or the creation of new APSs. This work will be completed before approved changes to Regent Law and Policy take effect.

A summary of the proposed changes to the first draft is provided below. Comments must be received by May 13, 2018, to ensure they are considered for the final draft.
Article 7: Recommended Changes to Draft 1

Part A: Admissions

• No changes proposed.

Part B: Standards of Conduct

• Revise wording and combine two sub-sections for clarification and simplification. No substantive changes proposed.

Part C: Academic Freedom

• Add a statement affirming academic freedom as a core principle of the university and indicate how it applies to students.
• Explicitly state that all members of that university community have the right to free expression, but that it is distinct from academic freedom.
• Revise wording to indicate that campus policies may apply.

Part D: Student Government

• Revise to clarify that each campus shall have a student government organization.
• Revise to indicate that the spokesperson for the Intercampus Student Forum (ICSF) need not be the chair (or a single individual for all issues), allowing the ICSF to select the most appropriate spokesperson for the topic under discussion.

Policies 7A-7D: Recommended Changes to Draft 1

Policy 7A: Admissions

• Add statement confirming the principal role of faculty in establishing admission criteria.

Policy 7B: Standards of Conduct

• Eliminate reference to specific forms of prohibited conduct. This should be addressed in campus policies.
• Provide for an appeals process (if any) that is appropriate to the type of violation involved. This allows for a more extensive process for serious offenses and sanctions and a less extensive process for minor violations.

Policy 7C: Academic Freedom

• Revise wording to indicate that campus policies may apply.
• Clarify the basis on which students may challenge data presented in a course.
• Restate student responsibilities as an expectation that students will work toward achieving the academic standards established for a course.

Policy 7D: Student Government

• Revise wording for clarification. No substantive changes proposed.