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OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

TO: Regent Laws and Policies Stakeholders

FROM: Michael Lightner, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Maureen Durkin, Director of Academic Program and Policy Analysis

DATE: March 10, 2025

RE: Formal Review of Regent Policy 5.B: Academic Freedom

Regent Policy 5.B: Academic Freedom

In May 2024, the Regent Governance Committee approved a five-year schedule for the continuing formal review of all regent laws and policies. As part of this process, **Regent Policy 5.B – Academic Freedom** is currently under review.

The initial draft of Policy 5.B was posted as “Draft 0” on the [Regent Law and Policy Review website](#) for stakeholder feedback last Fall. All comments were reviewed and considered, and no additional changes were incorporated prior to first discussion at the January 2025 Regents Governance Committee meeting. During the meeting, a regent suggested an additional change which is now incorporated into “Draft 1” of the policy, details are below. The draft continued to be posted for feedback through a deadline of March 4, 2025, and received no additional comment. Feedback is still welcome. Draft 1 is on the agenda for second discussion at the Regents Governance Committee on March 25, 2025.

Policy 5.B was last reviewed in September 2018 and was affirmed by the regents in July 2020.

Proposed changes include:

- Additional wording for clarity was suggested during January 23, 2025, Governance Committee meeting (see line 20: “inside or” outside the university).
- Proposed updates to language in section 5.B.1(C) are to make clear that faculty personnel actions shall not consider factors related to a faculty member exercising their freedom of expression under Regent Article 1, Part E and Regent Policy 1.D.
- Other proposed changes are for technical clarity (see introductory statement, line 3 and section 5.B.2(A)) and corrected references to Regent Law and Policy 8 (section 5.B.2(E)).