

Office of the Senate (MC 303)  
513 UIC Student Center East  
750 South Halsted Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7016

February 5, 2015

Donald Chambers, Chair  
University Senates Conference (MC 348)  
377 Henry Administration Building  
506 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Don:

At its meeting on January 29, 2014 the UIC Senate approved a motion to withdraw the proposed Classified Research Policy and to revisit this policy conversation after new leadership at the University brings the item back to the Senate Committee for consideration. In the process of reviewing the Classified Research Policy a variety of concerns were raised by both Senators and members of the Senate Research Committee. The attached letter by the Chair of the Senate Research Committee depicts these concerns.

Sincerely,



Catherine Vincent, Associate Professor and  
Secretary, UIC Senate and Chair, UIC Senate Executive Committee

Cc: Larry Schook, Vice President for Research

Office of the Senate (MC 303)  
513 UIC Student Center East  
750 South Halsted Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7016

February 9, 2015

Donald Chambers, Chair  
University Senates Conference (MC 348)  
377 Henry Administration Building  
506 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Dr. Chambers:

This letter is written to share information about a University-wide Classified Research Policy and the actions taken by the UIC Senate and UIC Senate Research Committee in relation to this policy.

In December 2014, the UIC Senate Research Committee brought before the UIC Senate a proposed Classified Research Policy that had been presented to the UIC Senate Research Committee by Dr. Larry Shook, UIC's Vice President of Research. The Senate Research Committee had reviewed and approved the proposed policy for consideration by the UIC Senate.

At the time when this proposed policy was discussed at the December 2014 UIC Senate meeting, an assortment of questions emerged from various UIC Senators. Faculty had not had a robust conversation about the issues surrounding the potential movement from a policy that does not permit classified research to one that could permit classified research, as well as the generally unbounded nature of the policy being proposed. There were questions about the infrastructure necessary for supporting classified research, costs associated with a classified research enterprise, and how such costs would be paid. There were questions about the overall management of a classified research enterprise. For this reason the UIC Senate referred the discussion of this proposed policy back to the UIC Senate Research Committee.

For the UIC Senate Research Committee to have the most productive conversation about the proposed policy and these questions, I (as chair of the Senate Research Committee) took a variety of steps following the UIC Senate Meeting in December to gain additional information for sharing with the Senate Research Committee at our January meeting. I had conversations with Dr. David Hilbert, Presiding Officer of the UIC Senate, Dr. Mitra Dutta, Vice Chancellor for Research and one of just a handful of individuals at UIC with security clearance for conducting classified research, and Dr. Michael Colvard, College of Dentistry, another individual at UIC with such security clearance. By visiting Dr. Colvard's lab in the College of Dentistry, I was able to gain a bit of insight into non-classified work being done at UIC by individuals with security clearance. I also reached out to Dr. Roy Campbell the Presiding Officer of Urbana's Faculty Senate to learn about the status of this proposed policy discussion at Urbana. This contact was made because the Senate Research Committee had been told that Urbana had likely already reviewed and approved the proposed policy.

During our Senate Research Committee Meeting in January 2015 I summarized UIC Senate questions about the approved policy as well as other questions that had emerged as I had held conversations with other individuals, and I presented key findings from the assortment of conversations and meetings that I had following the December 2014 UIC Senate meeting. The committee also discussed issues that had surfaced during our

preliminary review of this proposed University policy during our November 2014 meeting. During this discussion, members of the committee acknowledged that our committee's decision to initially approve the proposed classified research policy and forward the policy to the full UIC Senate was based on our understanding that there was urgency for the University-wide policy to be approved: a) because the policy change was being federally requested, b) because Urbana had likely already approved the policy, and c) our delay in approval of the University-wide policy could have negative consequences on Urbana. Through the information gathering that I had done between meetings, I determined that none of these issues were at play. The UIC Senate Research Committee recognizes that a range of complex issues surround conducting classified research. There are individuals on campus who have considerable expertise in this area and these individuals should be integrally involved in any future conversations related to a classified research policy at UIC. Likewise, individuals without such expertise are also vital to subsequent conversations because they can consider policy implications from a broader campus-wide perspective.

With these issues in mind, at the January 2015 UIC Senate Research Committee meeting, the committee approved a motion to withdraw the Senate Research Committee's initial acceptance of the proposed Classified Research Policy and to revisit this particular policy conversation at such a time as new leadership at the University brings the item back to the UIC Senate Research Committee for consideration. I presented this motion to withdraw the initial acceptance of the proposed policy at the January 2015 UIC Senate meeting. At this meeting the UIC Senate accepted the motion to withdraw the proposed Classified Research Policy and to revisit this policy conversation after new leadership at the University brings the item back to the Senate Committee for consideration.

Best,



Shelby  
Dr. Shelby Cosner, Chair of UIC's Senate Research Committee  
Associate Professor  
Department of Educational Policy Studies  
College of Education  
University of Illinois at Chicago

Cc: Dr. Larry Shook, Vice President of Research  
Connie Sailor, University Senates Conference