

## **Responses to the Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on Dissent and Protest**

The January 27, 2013 demonstration that resulted in four arrests at the University of Chicago Medicine's Center for Care and Discovery sparked campus-wide dialogue about protest activity and policing strategies. After a second protest on February 23, 2013, and the actions of some members of the University of Chicago Police Department (UCPD), President Zimmer and I asked Schiff-Hardin, LLP, to conduct an independent external investigation to determine if University policies had been violated by those responding to the protests. I also appointed the Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on Dissent and Protest to examine our policies and develop recommendations to improve our handling of planned and unplanned protests on our campus, where we prize free and open expression.

The Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on Dissent and Protest dedicated months to studying peer institutions' demonstration policies, discussing our suite of policies with individuals and groups on our campus and off, soliciting further comment via its email address, and forming recommendations deeply anchored in our University values, including free expression. I am grateful to the Committee members for their nuanced explication of those values and the intersection of those values with dissent and protest. I am also grateful for the Committee's thoughtful recommendations in this vital realm.

This document incorporates the responses of Nim Chinniah, Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer, who oversees the University of Chicago Police Department, and Karen Warren Coleman, Vice President for Campus Life and Student Services, who is responsible for student affairs and the Dean-on-Call Program. As the two individuals who oversee the areas most directly involved in campus protests, they met with the Committee in the course of its work.

### **All-University Disciplinary System**

The Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on Dissent and Protest recommended that the University reevaluate the All-University Disciplinary System, a structure established during the Vietnam War to respond to disruptive student conduct on campus. An All-University Disciplinary Committee has not been constituted since 1974, although faculty members have been regularly appointed to serve if needed. For the past 40 years when disruptive student conduct has warranted formal investigation and hearing, the matter has been handled via the student disciplinary system within each academic unit.

In light of the four decades of inactivity of the All-University Disciplinary System, and given the availability and use of other avenues for inquiry and redress that have been developed since the 1970's, the University will discontinue the All-University Committee effective July 1, 2014. Faculty committees will be appointed on an ad hoc basis if required.

### University Statute 21

In accord with the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on Dissent and Protest, the Committee of the Council is reviewing proposed changes to Statute 21. Any suggested changes will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees, which holds the authority to implement changes to the Statutes of the University.

### University of Chicago Police Department (Nim Chinniah)

The University of Chicago Police Department (UCPD) officers follow a detailed protocol in response to protest activity. If UCPD is called to a protest, officers are deployed alongside the Dean-on-Call and a UCPD supervisor to assess the situation together and guide the police officers at the scene. Additional UCPD captain positions were added in May 2013 to oversee police operations, augmenting leadership representation at all times. The Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer is notified immediately of any protest situation and works collaboratively with the President, Provost and other senior university leaders to make decisions and direct a coordinated response.

In June, 2013, UCPD implemented an order strictly prohibiting any undercover operations by the UCPD. General orders (official police policies) were also put in place to guide the UCPD's overall handling of protests and demonstrations.

In August 2013, Campus and Student Life (CSL) provided training to all commissioned UCPD personnel on protest and dissent on campus and the Dean-on-Call (DOC) program. The DOC fulfills the primary role of engagement with the demonstrators. UCPD officers represent the last step in enforcement and intervene in a situation after disciplinary policies are explained by a third party.

UCPD has also completed training with University of Chicago Medicine Public Safety and the UCPD Communications Center in order to increase communication and strengthen the collaborative relationship between them. Comments and questions regarding UCPD operations and policies may always be directed to Marlon Lynch, Associate Vice President for Safety and Security and Chief of Police, or Nim Chinniah, Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer.

### Dean-on-Call Program (Karen Warren Coleman)

In May 2013, Campus and Student Life (CSL) conducted an initial review of the Dean-on-Call (DOC) program, which was completed Autumn Quarter. CSL also launched two working groups to address various aspects of the DOC program. These working groups reviewed reference and educational material regarding the DOC program as well as its structure, the selection processes and the training for the Deans-on-Call. They have recommended ways to better define the program's role, purposes, functions and limitations as well as to clarify how students may seek program support. Changes will be communicated and implemented in the near future.

### Protest and Demonstration Policies (Karen Warren Coleman)

Campus and Student Life also convened a working group to examine the ways in which the University communicates its protest and demonstration policies. The working group concluded that the current methods – publication online and inclusion in the handbook used at training for Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) – serve the institution well, but could be enhanced by

discussing these policies at RSO training. In order to broaden understanding among students, CSL is developing an academic year workshop on free expression delineating available policies and resources (e.g., the Dean-on-Call program and Student Activities advisors) and how to access them. CSL welcomes suggestions for improving policies and enhancing communication.

### Conclusion

Events such as the pair of 2013 protests appropriately stir intense debate within our community and oblige us to review our policies to determine if they are useful, well-articulated and undergirded by the fundamental tenets of our University. The work of our faculty, as exemplified by the Report of the Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on Dissent and Protest, helps assure that we are living up to our principles. We will continue to evaluate and discuss UCPD and CSL policies as part of our commitment to fostering free and open expression.

*Thomas F. Rosenbaum, Provost*  
*February 18, 2014*