



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Memorandum

Date: November 10, 2022

To: Faculty Senate Executive Committee

From: Ronald L. Elsenbaumer, Chancellor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronald L. Elsenbaumer".

Dear Assem and Executive Committee Members:

I, and our entire senior leadership team, appreciate the faculty Senate's concern for the well-being of our students, staff, and faculty. Specifically with regard to [Senate Document SD 22-6](#), and a review of the Created Equal Event on campus on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, we fully recognize many of the concerns that have been expressed about the conduct of this outside group while they were on our campus. Vice Chancellor Nakata spoke about a review of university policies that is being undertaken in response to the Created Equal event at the recent [town hall on Campus Safety and Well-Being](#) (starting at the 17:50 mark in the recording.)

In furtherance of this effort, and to support it, we welcome the opportunity to engage in a collaborative dialogue with the Executive Committee; Student Affairs Committee; an ad hoc committee; or some other suitable collection of Senators, faculty, staff, and/or students to talk about the event and, more importantly, how we might respond in the future while still upholding our obligations as a public campus. Please be assured, we are ready and willing to support such a dialogue.

From a process perspective, we believe that this approach will be much more likely to produce mutual understanding of university policies and principles, how they were applied in this instance, and what appropriate next steps might be in evaluating our current policies and practices. In general, we do not believe that the proper forum for such an undertaking is a Senate meeting, with all of the necessary constraints under which that body operates. For example, a brief presentation followed by Q&A during a meeting would not lend itself to the kind of deliberative work or detailed, nuanced dialogue from multiple dimensions that the list of questions in SD 22-6 requires if they are intended to result in true understanding or positive outcomes for the campus.

We look forward to a truly collaborative engagement to review current policies and practices for vetting and approving outside engagements on our campus. As such, we await an indication from the Executive Committee on how you would like to proceed in support of the spirit of collaboration outlined above.