

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

ACADEMIC SENATE CHAIR STEVEN CHEUNG
CHANCELLORS
PROVOSTS & EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLORS

Dear Colleagues,

The [UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement](#), founded in 2017, explores the intersection of expression, engagement and democratic learning and considers what can be done to restore trust in the value of free speech on college campuses and within society at large. Through research, advocacy, debate and discussion, the Center is dedicated to ensuring that the next generation of leaders is prepared to understand, defend and advance these values. It is hard to imagine a time when the issues of expression and democratic learning are more urgent.

An integral part of the Center is its [Academic Advisory Board](#) (AAB). This Board is ideally comprised of at least one member from each UC campus and represents the diversity of UC's academic disciplines. Appointments to the Board are for 3 years.

Responsibilities of Board members include:

- Advising the Center on its research and [programming](#) initiatives, including annual selection of [Fellows](#) and [VOICE](#) (Valuing Open and Inclusive Conversation and Engagement) awardees;
- Serving as a liaison between Center Fellows and appropriate campus resources in order to advance the Fellows' research. AAB members will also help arrange opportunities (i.e. public talks, roundtables, classroom visits) for the Fellows to share their expertise;
- Participation in Center programming when appropriate;
- Attending at least two Academic Advisory Board meetings per academic year (one in person and one virtually).

AAB members are invited attend and participate in Center programming, including our annual [#SpeechMatters](#) conference. This year's conference will be held virtually on April 10, 2025, from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm PT.

We would be grateful if you would help generate nominations to the Academic Advisory Board by disseminating this request to faculty and academic leaders across your campuses. Individuals may nominate themselves or be nominated by others. Nominations should be submitted at the [Academic Advisory Board Nomination site](#) and should include a one-page statement of qualifications and interest. **Nominations are due by Friday, November 15, 2024.**

If you have questions, please contact Michelle Deutchman at m.deutchman@uci.edu.

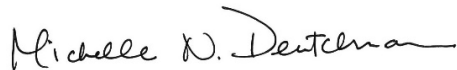
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Howard Gillman".

Howard Gillman
Chancellor, University of California, Irvine
Co-Chair, Advisory Board, UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erwin Chemerinsky".

Erwin Chemerinsky
Dean and Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law
University of California, Berkeley School of Law
Co-Chair, Advisory Board, UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle N. Deutchman".

Michelle N. Deutchman
Executive Director
UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement