COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

Committee on University Governance   **April 10, 2014**

Agenda Item 4.b: Other Business: Proposed policy: Recognition of Student Organizations

     Situation: Proposal of a new Board of Governors policy regarding the recognition of student organizations.

     Background: At its June 14, 2013, meeting the Board of Governors asked the President to review the student organization recognition policies of the constituent institutions, with a particular focus on the importance of protecting the freedoms of expression, inquiry, and association, consistent with the First Amendment, and the need to maintain an educational environment free of discrimination on bases prohibited by applicable law and policy. The President reported to the Board of Governors at its February meeting that the campuses have policies that permit student organizations to condition membership or participation on the commitment of members to a set of beliefs.

     Assessment: Each campus has a policy prohibiting discrimination against student organizations who wish to limit their membership based on the commitment to a set of beliefs, and the Board of Governors should reinforce the University's commitment to First Amendment principles by adopting its own such policy, for system-wide application.

     Action: This item requires a vote.

Recognition of Student Organizations

Each constituent institution shall adopt student organization recognition policies, including, but not limited to, criteria for use of campus facilities and receipt of funding derived from mandatory fees. Such policies shall, at a minimum, consistent with the University's equal opportunity policies, provide that student organizations that select their members or leaders on the basis of commitment to a set of beliefs (e.g., religious or political beliefs) may limit membership and participation in the group to those students who, upon individual inquiry, affirm that they support the group's goals and agree with its beliefs.