

F-2. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS POLICY

The University is highly visible and sensitive matters may frequently arise that, in some cases, warrant immediate responsiveness to inquiries from media outlets and other members of the public. At the same time, it is important that the University use its best efforts to communicate on important matters in manner that is factual and consistent while remaining in compliance with applicable laws.

Accordingly, no public notices, announcements, statements, or comments regarding any matter that is of a controversial or otherwise newsworthy nature should be initiated, circulated, provided, confirmed, or otherwise commented upon by the University, or any employee or representative of the University acting or purporting to act in such person's official capacity on behalf of the University, prior to the Board of Trustees' review and approval of the same, and the taking of any preemptive or responsive action that the Board of Trustees determines to be necessary or desirable in furtherance of the University's interests with respect to the same; *provided, however*, that appropriate University personnel may respond to media inquiries to the extent authorized by other University policies, rules, regulations or as otherwise authorized in writing by the Board of Trustees.

If, notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this policy, the University President determines that the best interests of the University would be served by speaking on a controversial, newsworthy, or any other matter that requires review or approval by the Board of Trustees matter before it would be possible or feasible to obtain review or approval by the Board of Trustees, then the University President may, upon consultation with and following receipt of the consent of the *President Pro Tempore*, make or issue a public statement; *provided, however*, that if the subject matter of such statement is a matter requiring action or approval by the Board of Trustees, the statement shall be made in a manner that clearly and directly states that the matter is not final until such review or approval is obtained.

Notwithstanding the foregoing or anything to the contrary, nothing in this policy shall prohibit the making of any announcement, statement, or notice that is required to be made pursuant to applicable law.

ADOPTED: April 16, 2021