

2.18.2016

STATEMENT FROM THE HUMANITIES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (HEC):

At its meeting on February 18 on the four proposed South Asian endowed chairs, the HEC voted and decided on the following:

1. The HEC unanimously agreed with the Ad Hoc Committee, and advised the Dean to reject the Thakkar Family-Dharma Civilization Foundation Presidential Chair in Indic and Vedic Civilization Studies, as well as the Swami Vivekananda-Dharma Civilization Foundation Chair in Modern India Studies.
2. The HEC unanimously agreed to endorse the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation that the proposed Shri Parshvanath Presidential Chair in Jain Studies and the proposed Dhan Kaur Sahota Presidential Chair in Sikh Studies be returned for further review and reconsideration to the dean's office and to appropriate faculty groups for meaningful consultation, and subsequently be reconsidered by the HEC.
3. The HEC agrees with the Ad Hoc Committee's report that new guidelines, policies, and procedures must be put in place to ensure that the HEC and relevant departments are consulted proactively about important school decisions, including policies that will give HEC and appropriate faculty the opportunity to review gift proposals and accompanying documents for future endowed chairs or other gifts that might have an impact on the school.

Toward this end, the HEC will name an ad hoc committee to establish clear and detailed guidelines, regarding gift agreements and other policies in the School of Humanities, in order to ensure appropriate process of consultation. Those guidelines will be presented to the Dean and the HEC for approval. If necessary, they will be introduced as additions to the bylaws to guide future HEC actions.

Further, the HEC urges the Academic Senate to review the guidelines for the establishment of endowed chairs, in consultation with University Advancement.

For the committee:

Jacobo Sefamí, chair
Amy Wilentz, vice-chair