

From: Ruth Watkins

Sent: Friday, August 04, 2017 3:34 PM

To: Mark Button

Cc: Cynthia Berg

Subject: note from Ruth Watkins and David Pershing

Dear Mark,

Although we have not formally received the letter you drafted expressing your perspective on the university's gift agreement with the Charles Koch Foundation as one contributor to the Marriner S. Eccles Institute for Economics and Quantitative Analysis, we have seen a copy and wanted to thank you for taking the time to share your view. We also thought it might be helpful to provide some context. We appreciate that faculty, students, staff and members of the community will have differing views on the Charles Koch Foundation donation, and we support the expression of these diverse views and the use of university governance processes to convey input. We are writing now to affirm that we have reviewed this agreement with care and believe that the institution's interests and core values are appropriately safeguarded.

All of the gift agreements associated with the Marriner S. Eccles Institute for Economics and Quantitative Analysis were thoughtfully crafted by U team members, working in partnership with the faculty members who will be responsible for the work of the new institute. Their goal was to protect the autonomy of the institute's operation, ensure the academic freedom of those working there and align with university practices. The gift agreements have been openly shared and can be accessed at this link <https://d26toa8f6ahusa.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/04110857/Institute-Agreements.pdf>

As we are sure you recognize from your own advancement work, the university neither endorses nor condemns the personal or political viewpoints of any of its donors, nor do we believe it is appropriate for us to control the funding agencies and foundations where faculty members seek support for their research. We know that there are many perspectives on the new institute, particularly of the Charles Koch Foundation. We understand that and believe that our ability to listen to and respect our different views on these kinds of challenging topics define who we are as an academic community.

We thank you for expressing your concerns, and for your leadership and exceptional commitment to the University of Utah community. You are welcome to share our comments with colleagues if that would be helpful.

With best wishes,

Ruth and Dave