

**THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
MEETING AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

September 17, 2003

The Regents of the University of California met on the above date at UCSF–Laurel Heights, San Francisco.

Present: Regents Atkinson, Blum, Bodine, Davies, Hopkinson, Huerta, Johnson, Kozberg, Lee, Lozano, Marcus, Montoya, Moores, Murray, Pattiz, Preuss, Sayles, and Seigler

In attendance: Regents-designate Novack and Ornellas, Faculty Representatives Blumenthal and Pitts, Secretary Trivette, General Counsel Holst, Treasurer Russ, Provost King, Senior Vice Presidents Darling and Mullinix, Vice Presidents Doby, Drake, Gomes, Gurtner, and Hershman, Chancellors Bishop, Carnesale, Cicerone, Córdoba, Dynes, Greenwood, Tomlinson-Keasey, Vanderhoef, and Yang, and Recording Secretary Bryan

The meeting convened at 10:15 a.m. with Chairman Moores presiding.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Moores explained that the Board had been convened as a Committee of the Whole in order to permit members of the public an opportunity to comment on University-related matters. The following persons addressed the Board concerning the subjects noted.

***Committee on Finance, Item 502, Adoption of Final 2003-04 Budget for Current Operations***

- A. Ms. Norah Foster, representing the Coalition of University Employees, reported that salaries for University library workers have fallen to 25 percent below the market compared to public librarians. She believed that the University's libraries should be shielded from further budget cuts.
- B. Ms. Kris O'Connor, representing the Central Coast Vineyard Team, a grower group whose mission is to promote sustainable farming, described the reasons for the group's concern about the possibility that the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program and Statewide Integrated Pest Management programs would be absorbed into a larger center where sustainability issues are not a high priority.
- C. Mr. Jonathan Kaplan, representing the Natural Resources Defense Council, commented that the Legislature had asked the University to support

sustainable farming practices. His group was concerned that sustainable agriculture programs were being dismantled by the University.

- D. Mr. David Chatfield, representing Californians for Pesticide Reform, urged the Regents to find ways of continuing its leadership role in the support of sustainable farming practices and agricultural research.
- E. Mr. Charles Schwartz, Professor Emeritus, believed that so far only the easiest steps had been taken to address the budget crisis. He offered his written proposal containing five steps toward ending the budget crisis equitably.
- F. Ms. Mary Higgins, representing the Coalition of University Employees, advocated improvements in the employee grievance process and heavier budget cuts at the top of the organization.

***Committee on Finance, Item 504, Proposed Seismic/Life Safety Fee, Santa Cruz Campus***

- G. Mr. Jacob Cabrera, representing Student Sustainability Coalition, was opposed to the way in which the \$25 increase in student fees to cover seismic corrections was established. He believed that too few students had been contacted concerning the issue and that there had been insufficient opportunities for comment.

***University-Related Topics***

- H. Mr. Ira Lietner commented that Continuing Education of the Bar was the focus of a number of lawsuits that have resulted in settlements paid by the University. He believed that his wife's lawsuit following her layoff could have been avoided, and he requested the Regents to examine her case.
- I. Mr. Mark Silverman, representing the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, commented that recently appointed Regent Huerta had a history of fighting for equality and justice and would be a welcome addition to the Board.

**2. PRESIDENT'S OVERVIEW**

President Atkinson reported that *U.S. News and World Report* had ranked UC campuses as six of the top 12 public institutions in the country and all eight undergraduate campuses among the top 40. Our campuses also continue to do well in the overall rankings of public and private universities. He reported also that Senior Vice President Mullinix had been awarded the 2003 Distinguished Business Officer Award from the National Association of College and University Business Officers. This award is given to recognize outstanding overall achievement in the field of business and financial management in higher education.

President Atkinson noted that the agenda for this meeting includes an update on the national laboratories and a report on the second-year implementation of comprehensive review in undergraduate admissions. Also scheduled is a discussion of the issues guiding the development of the 2004-05 budget. The discussion will include a range of options for The Regents to consider as the University begins setting its priorities for the upcoming State budget cycle.

With the State facing an \$8 billion deficit and a clear signal coming from Sacramento that funding for enrollment growth and other inflationary cost increases will not be provided next year, the University faces a very difficult set of circumstances. None of the budget options that will be presented is an attractive option. All of them, to some extent, will undermine our historic foundation of quality, access, and affordability at the University of California.

Mr. Atkinson observed that deep cuts have already affected nearly every part of the University, forcing the elimination of employee positions, the scaling back of countless programs, and a substantial reduction in the services the University is able to deliver to the people of California. Over the last three years, enrollments have grown 18 percent while the State-funded budget has fallen 14 percent; over the same period of time, the Partnership Agreement – a statement of the minimum resources the University needs to meet its obligations to the State – has become underfunded by more than \$1 billion. Further budget cuts from the State will have a drastic impact on the University of California's ability to meet its commitments to the people of California. He expressed his hope that the State's leaders will consider the major impact of further budget cuts before implementing them.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary