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

March 17, 2004

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

Present: Regents Blum, Bodine, Dynes, Hopkinson, Johnson, Kozberg, Lozano, Marcus, Montoya, Moores, Murray, O’Connell, Preuss, Sayles, and Seigler

In attendance: Regents-designate Anderson, 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, and Gomes, Chancellors Carnesale, Cicerone, Córdova, Greenwood, Tomlinson-Keasey, Vanderhoef, and Yang, Acting Chancellor Chandler, Executive Vice Chancellor Gray representing Chancellor Berdahl, and Recording Secretary Nietfeld

The meeting convened at 8:45 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 address University-related matters. The following persons addressed the Board concerning the items noted.

Committee on Finance, Item 502: Update on University of California 2004-05 Budget

A. Mr. Adam Burgh, a student at the Berkeley campus and the founder of Students for Out-of-State and International Diversity (SOID), expressed concern that a further increase in non-resident tuition was being proposed. He pointed to the ways in which out-of-state and international students bring cultural diversity to the campus and discussed some of the ways in which his organization assists these students. Mr. Burgh noted that non-resident students pay $3,000 more than the cost of attendance and that recent fee increases had resulted in a decline in the number of students who apply from out of state.

B. Ms. Norah Foster, a member of the Coalition of University Employees, suggested that a State audit had found the University to be top-heavy in managerial positions. She asked that funding for the Berkeley library be restored.

C. Mr. Randal Blair, a student at Hastings College of the Law, suggested that recent fee increases were pricing the cost of attending the University into the private school realm. He believed that individual Regents should be more outspoken in opposition to further fee increases.
Committee on Finance, Item RE-41: Amendment of the University of California Student Fee Policy to Include Consideration of the Full Cost of Attending the University When Setting Annual Student Fee Levels

D. Ms. Jen Lilla, a student at the San Francisco campus, expressed the unanimous support of the University of California Student Association for RE-41, which proposes that The Regents consider the amendment of the student fee policy to include consideration of the full cost of attendance in setting student fees. She recalled that in 2002 UCSA had issued a report which addressed the true cost of attending UC and compared that cost with similar public institutions.

University-Related Matters

E. Mr. Murray Morgan suggested that there should be a salary cap at the University.

F. Mr. Cliff Stevens, a faculty member at UC Berkeley Extension, asked for the assistance of The Regents in saving the English Language Program, which is slated to end on May 14. The program has been supported entirely by student fees over its thirty-year history and has returned a profit. He suggested that the review process that led to the decision to terminate the program had been inconsistent and lacking in accountability. There are more than thirty faculty members in the program, with an average length of service to the University of 16 years. Mr. Stevens alleged that the intention was to out-source the program to other institutions, including UC Davis Extension.

G. Ms. Sybil Marcus, an English language teacher at Berkeley Extension for 17 years, noted that the Dean had reiterated to both the faculty and the press his opinion that the English Language Program is not “Berkeley appropriate.” She pointed out that her classes, which are highly challenging, are composed mainly of students who are studying for their bachelor’s or master’s degrees. She was surprised that, during the review process, no one had visited any classes to evaluate the appropriateness of these classes.

H. Ms. Kathleen Letellier, an English language teacher at Berkeley Extension for thirty years, suggested that it was illogical for the University to close a money-making venture during a time of fiscal crisis. She suggested that demand for the program would soon increase dramatically due to the weakness of the dollar.

I. Mr. James Sheldon, a student at the Santa Cruz campus, expressed concern about the lack of consultation with student government prior to the appointment of an Acting Chancellor. He noted that the policy on the appointment of chancellors calls for such consultation but does not apply to interim appointments. He urged The Regents to amend this policy.
J. Ms. Rabiah Burke, a student at the Berkeley campus, explained that, as an African-American, she no longer wanted to justify her qualifications for admission. She alleged that racism on the campus is expressed in ways such as racial profiling by the campus police department of Black male students. She stated that students were asking for a seven percent increase in the number of African-American faculty, students, and staff on the campus.

K. Ms. Aquelia Lewis, a transfer student at Berkeley, charged that her undergraduate experience had been marred by negativity and racism. She questioned why a campus with a liberal reputation such as Berkeley would subject her to this treatment.

L. Mr. James Drake, a student at the Berkeley campus, stated that African-American students plan to take direct action if conditions at Berkeley do not improve.

M. Ms. Yvette Falarca, a member of By Any Means Necessary, stated her criticism of the opinion piece by Regent Moores that had appeared in Forbes Magazine. She called on The Regents to denounce the report.

2. REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

President Dynes recalled that The Regents had recently approved the appointment of Chancellor Greenwood as Provost and Senior Vice President–Academic Affairs, effective April 1, 2004. He noted that this appointment would permit Provost King to begin his retirement and to assume his role as director of the Center for Studies in Higher Education at UC Berkeley. The President also acknowledged Director Shank’s announcement that he planned to retire as director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, a position he has held for 15 years. The search for his replacement is under way, and it is anticipated that a nominee will be presented for approval soon. Searches are also under way for new chancellors at Berkeley and San Diego.

President Dynes noted that the passage of Proposition 55 in the March primary will allow the University to move forward with important facilities projects, including earthquake and life-safety improvements, construction of new buildings, and renovations that will ensure that research and instructional facilities stay current as technologies and academic programs evolve.

Turning to the State budget, the President reported that he had testified before the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education in Sacramento, at which time he had reminded legislators of some of UC’s contributions to California. At that hearing he also expressed the view that a great public research university cannot be sustained if it is made to absorb deep budget cuts year after year. Quality will erode as faculty leave, students do not enroll, and innovations that power the economy stop flowing. Investment in public higher education must be a priority for the State.
The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary