PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Parsky 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 items on the agenda and University-related matters. The following persons addressed the Board concerning the subjects noted.

Committees on Oversight of the Department of Energy Laboratories and Finance, Item 1-OF: Approval to Participate in a Response to a Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration Request for Proposal to Manage and Operate the Los Alamos National Laboratory

A. Ms. Lori Nairne, R.N., representing Global Women’s Strike, was opposed to the management policies of Bechtel Corporation and to the nuclear industry generally. She believed that medical people in particular should take a position against nuclear proliferation.

Committee on Finance, Item 503: Approval of Proposed Additional Increases in Professional School Fees for 2005-06 and Item 504: Approval of Temporary Increase in Educational Fee for Selected Professional School Students Beginning 2005-06

Representing the UCLA School of Public Affairs, Department of Public Policy:

B. Mr. Jack Clift noted that the school was reclassified as a professional school and had a new fee imposed on it without consultation with the department. He requested that continuing students be exempted from the fee.
C. Mr. Ravi Sastry reported that students may have recognized the likelihood of fee increases upon enrollment, but he believed that the imposition of an entirely new professional fee that amounts to a 60 percent increase in overall costs for in-state students was unreasonable. He believed that the new fee should not be applied to continuing students.

D. Mr. Aravind Moorthy understood that exempting continuing students from the professional fee may appear to set an undesirable precedent; however, he believed their case was unique in that the fee was the result of their program being reclassified as a professional program, and much of the fee is not returned to the department but instead is transmitted to the School of Public Affairs.

E. Mr. Abe Gardner reported that, although this fee would affect a limited number of students, high fees in general would cause many of the state’s brightest students to abandon their hopes for graduate education.

University-Related Issues

Representing the UC Sudan Divestment Task Force:

F. Ms. Bridget Smith, a UCLA student, reported that she represented students, faculty, staff, and alumni who are concerned about ongoing genocide in Sudan that has caused the deaths of 400,000 civilians and the displacement of millions of others. She urged the University to divest any stock it was holding in companies that do business with the government of Sudan.

G. Mr. Tristan Reed, a UCLA student, believed that divestment could force companies to scale back their projects in Sudan, thus decreasing the government’s revenue and saving lives. He reported that other large institutional investors had chosen to divest.

H. Ms. Christina Kaoh, a UCLA student, reported that her group had presented the Investment Advisory Committee with a program of divestment. She requested that divestment be placed on the agenda for the next Regents meeting and that the University hire a research group chosen by the task force to determine the extent of UC investments in companies operating in Sudan.

I. Ms. Cara Cast, a UC San Diego student, reported that after indicating his willingness to provide information about the University’s investments in companies operating in Sudan, Treasurer Russ had not responded to the group’s inquiries for information about the University’s investment, nor had Regent-designate Rosenthal responded. She stated that the task force would submit its request through the California Public Records Act.

J. Ms. Donna Carmi, a UCLA student, recalled that the University had divested from South Africa to protest apartheid. She believed that the tradition of shareholder responsibility mandates the same action with regard to Sudan.
The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary