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

July 20, 2005

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

Present: Regents Blum, Dynes, Hopkinson, Island, Johnson, Juline, Kozberg, Lansing, Lee, Marcus, Moores, Núñez, O’Connell, Parsky, Pattiz, Preuss, Rominger, Rosenthal, Sayles, and Wachter

In attendance: Regents-designate Coombs and Schreiner, Faculty Representatives Blumenthal and Brunk, Secretary Trivette, General Counsel Holst, Provost Greenwood, Senior Vice Presidents Darling and Mullinix, Vice Presidents Doby, Gomes, and Hershman, Interim Vice President Nation, Chancellors Bishop, Carnesale, Córdova, Denton, Drake, Fox, Vanderhoef, and Yang, and Recording Secretary Nietfeld

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

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Regent Rominger introduced Mr. Jefferson Coombs, who serves as a Regent-designate in his position of Secretary of the Alumni Associations, and Regent Juline introduced Mr. Steve Schreiner, Treasurer of the Alumni Associations and also a Regent-designate.

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 address University-related matters. The following persons addressed the Board concerning the items noted.

Board of Regents, Item C.: Approval of Temporary Increase in Educational Fee for Selected Professional School Students Beginning in 2005-06

A. Mr. Jared Fox, the president of the Graduate Student Association at the Los Angeles campus, suggested that the proposed fee increase represents retaliation against students on the part of the University and noted the effect it would have on students who had already chosen to enroll, thereby rejecting other schools’ financial aid packages. If the fees are approved, it will be more expensive for a non-resident student to attend the UC Davis law school than Stanford or Harvard law schools.

B. Mr. Mo Kashmiri, an employee of the University of California Student Association, spoke in opposition to the proposed fee increase, noting that student fees had risen by more than 100 percent over the past three years.
C. Mr. Abe Gardner, a student at the Boalt Hall School of Law, discussed the $4,000 grant he had received from Boalt to permit him to work during the summer in public service. He believed that students would be forced to repay these grants through private loans as the fees continue to increase.

Committee on Finance, Item 502: University of California 2005-06 Final Budget and Preliminary Discussion of 2006-07 Budget

D. Ms. Mary Higgins, a member of the Coalition of University Employees (CUE) on the San Francisco campus, pointed out that while the State budget had been adopted in July, University employees would not receive salary increases until October.

E. Ms. Marianne Mullen, a member of CUE, also asked that the pay increase be granted effective July 1.

University-Related Matters

F. Ms. Barbara Mortkowitz, a member of the American Jewish Congress, expressed concern about what she perceived as anti-Semitism on university campuses and asked The Regents to ensure compliance with a directive issued by then-Governor Davis which mandated that the president of each California university campus report on actions being taken to stop anti-Semitic actions.

G. Ms. Norah Foster, a member of CUE and speaking also on behalf of several other unions, presented a letter to President Dynes objecting to the fact that University staff who had honored picket lines at UC campuses had been subjected to retaliation.

H. Ms. Brenda Perez, a student at the Berkeley campus, expressed concern about inflation affecting the price of textbooks, which she believed made it more difficult to afford an education.

I. Dr. Murray Morgan felt that resources were being wasted at the University.

J. Mr. Anthony Pineda, a student, felt that higher student fees would negatively affect the ability of students to attend college.

K. Ms. Bev Eschenburg, a member of CUE and a career employee at the San Francisco campus, talked about her father’s work history and his feelings about unionization.

L. Ms. Liz Hall, a student at the Berkeley campus, commented that, due to the recent student fee increases and the reduction in return-to-aid, many of her friends had been forced to leave the University in order to work full time. She urged the Regents to restore the $6 million needed for a 33 percent return-to-aid policy.
M. Mr. Harry Khanna, a student at the San Diego campus, urged the Regents to restore the return-to-aid ratio to 33 percent. He pointed out that for him reduced financial aid translates to more debt, which may prevent him from pursuing a Ph.D.

N. Mr. Tim Paulsen, the executive director of the San Francisco Labor Council, expressed concern that employees who honored picket lines had been reprimanded by the University. He believed that the University would propose pension take-aways during contract negotiations with the unions.

O. Mr. Sean Johnson, speaking on behalf of nurses, expressed concern that corporate and government policy had reversed most of the gains in workers’ rights made since the New Deal.

P. Ms. Jan Howe, a registered nurse who is not a University employee, believed that a conflict of interest exists when individual Regents contribute to the Governor’s campaign that blames State workers for the State’s financial problems.

Q. Ms. Annie Larson, an employee at the San Francisco campus, stressed that the unions would continue to vote to strike.

R. Ms. Tanya Smith, a member of Communication Workers of America on the Berkeley campus, observed that there had been four strikes in the past four months on the University’s campuses. She referred to the communications that had been sent to employees prior to the strikes in which the strike were described as “unlawful.” She noted that many unfair labor practices had been filed by the unions against the University.

S. Ms. Faith Hensen, a nurse at the UC San Francisco Medical Center, reported that in her belief patient care and the work environment had deteriorated on the campus. She charged that the University breaks staffing ratios every day, with nursing turnover on the increase. Nurses who train at the University move on to positions with other hospitals where they receive better salaries and benefits.

T. Mr. Keven Rooney, president of the Union of Professional and Technical Employees (UPTE) on the San Francisco campus, suggested that the four strikes that had been held underscored serious labor problems at the University. UPTE, which represents researchers and technicians, has seen a 30 percent annual turnover rate as a result of low wages.

U. Ms. Lisa Richard, a nurse at the UC San Francisco Medical Center, reported that an open letter had been presented to President Dynes on behalf of the University’s nurses which requests pension protection.
V. Ms. Jessica Pierce, chair of the Student Union Assembly at the Santa Cruz campus, reported that she is a third-year student who works 25 hours per week at a job that does not pay her enough to be able to afford to buy textbooks.

W. Mr. Justin Bojorquez, a student at the Santa Cruz campus, urged the University to return to the 33 percent return-to-aid policy, which represents about $250 more per quarter for students who receive financial aid.

X. Ms. Takita Salisberry, a student at the Santa Cruz campus, asked the Regents to recognize the negative effect that the decrease in financial aid has had on low-income students.

Y. Mr. Raymond Austin, a student at the Santa Cruz campus, observed that in today’s world it is necessary to go to college; students should not be forced to worry about the cost.

Z. Mr. Michael Lyon, a member of the Senior Action Network, commented on the difficulties faced by a neighbor in obtaining medical care at UCSF.

AA. Professor Emeritus Charles Schwartz commented on his most recent paper, “Secrets of The Regents,” in which he outlines various examples of how, in his view, the Board has violated the open meetings laws of the State. He recalled that the court had ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed by him and other interested parties which charged the University with violation of the Bagley-Keene Act when the Committee on Investments had acted on policy in Closed Session.

BB. Mr. Jack Gerson, an alumnus of the Berkeley campus and the communications chair of the Oakland Education Association, suggested that the Regents could use their personal influence to increase funding for the State’s public schools.

CC. Mr. Timothy Melton, a member of UPTE on the Berkeley campus, reported that he was unable to support himself on the salary that he earns at the University, despite the 11 years of education that were required to qualify him to teach at UC.

DD. Mr. Roy Samaan, a student at the Los Angeles campus, discussed a recent student expense and resource survey which found that one of seven students at UC must work more than twenty hours per week. He believed this to be the result of increased student fees and reduced financial aid.

EE. Ms. Jeannie Biniek, a student at the Los Angeles campus, reported that she was a student who works more than twenty hours per week, which has negatively affected the quality of her academic experience. Although she graduated first in her class from high school, her grade point average at UCLA is barely a 3.0. She urged the
Regents to reconsider the 8 percent student fee increase and to restore return-to-aid to 33 percent.

FF. Ms. Lisa Clayton, a member of UPTE, expressed frustration over the high turnover rates in the University’s laboratories, which results in difficulties obtaining data from them. Although she has worked at the University for many years, Ms. Clayton believed that she would no longer be able to afford to do so.

GG. Ms. Ann Rose Dichov, a registered nurse and an alumna of the Berkeley campus, believed that California was being negatively affected by some of the Governor’s proposals.

HH. Mr. Floyd Amuchie, a student at the Santa Cruz campus, reported that he is $20,000 in debt despite the fact that he works 25 hours per week.

2. REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

Prior to the President’s remarks, Chairman Parsky introduced Regent Island, who was appointed to the Board by the Governor on June 6.

President Dynes welcomed Dr. Michael Drake to the meeting in his new role as Chancellor of the Irvine campus. He also recognized the new Staff Advisors to The Regents: Mr. David Miller, who serves as Staff Advisor to the Committee on Grounds and Buildings, and Mr. David Bell, who serves as Staff Advisor to the Committee on Educational Policy. The President observed that the Staff Advisor Pilot Program would be an opportunity to bring the voices of the staff into the deliberative process of The Regents.

Turning to matters on the Board’s agenda, President Dynes recognized the adoption of a State budget which funds the Governor’s compact with the University. It preserves full access for eligible students, allows the University to provide raises to faculty and staff, and provides a more stable base on which to begin planning for the future. The budget also preserves State funding for academic preparation programs, which was a high priority for the University, although the action was taken on a one-time basis. President Dynes reported that he had made a commitment to the Governor to provide quantitative data that prove that these programs work. The President expressed his appreciation to the Governor and the Legislature for the positive budget they have produced for higher education, and he acknowledged the contributions of Vice President Hershman, Associate Vice President Arditti, and the University’s advocates throughout the state.

President Dynes announced that the University had submitted a bid with its partners for the Los Alamos National Laboratory management contract. He believed that the bid is a strong one that offers world-class excellence in science and management at the laboratory.
In concluding his remarks, the President highlighted the fact that a presentation would be made on the University’s initiative to expand its training of high-quality science and mathematics teachers for California’s public schools. This is an area in which UC will have a dramatic, transformative effect on one of the major challenges facing the state.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary