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

July 21, 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, Lozano, Marcus, Moores, Parsky, Pattiz, Preuss, Rominger, Rosenthal, Ruiz, and Wachter

In attendance: Regents-designate Coombs, Ledesma, and Schreiner, Faculty Representative Blumenthal, Secretary Trivette, General Counsel Holst, Senior Vice President Mullinix, Vice Presidents Broome and Foley, Chancellors Bishop, Carnesale, Drake, Fox, Tomlinson-Keasey, Vanderhoef, and Yang, and Recording Secretary Bryan

The meeting convened at 9:10 a.m. with Chairman Parsky presiding.

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

Item 202, Committee on Oversight of the Department of Energy Laboratories: Status of Competition and Other Matters at the Department of Energy Laboratories

A. Ms. Chelsea Cologne, representing the Coalition to Demilitarize UC, expressed concern over the University’s ongoing involvement with nuclear weapons research. She believed The Regents should have apologized to the Japanese for having contributed to the development of the atomic bomb. She was opposed to competing for the Los Alamos National Laboratory management contract.

B. Ms. Jackie Cabasso, representing the Western States Legal Foundation, believed that the U.S. nuclear weapons policy was dangerous, hypocritical, and unsustainable as well as immoral and illegal. She stated that through its connection with the Los Alamos laboratory the University was an accomplice in atrocities during WWII.

C. Ms. Tara Dorabji, representing Tri-Valley Cares, along with Nuclear Watch of New Mexico submitted to the DOE a proposal for radical management changes at the DOE laboratories that included initiatives to clean up nuclear waste and stop the modernization of nuclear weapons. She noted that a criterion under the draft RFP for the Los Alamos laboratory included the manufacture of nuclear weapons, which she did not believe represented great science.
D. Ms. Sharon Han, a UC Berkeley student, reported that she had never qualified for financial aid because her family income is slightly too high. Her mother works three jobs to help pay for her children’s UC education. She asked that tuition not be increased.

E. Mr. Miguel Casillas, President of the Boalt Hall Student Association, urged the Regents to vote against fee hikes. He believed it was a miscarriage of justice to pass on to students the costs of the Kashmiri class action lawsuit. He noted that, despite public perception, not all law students were in a position to pay ever-increasing fees.

F. Ms. Jenna Musselman, a Boalt Hall student, recalled that the University had broken its promise not to raise fees for the class of 2005. She stated that as an out-of-state student she may have chosen a private school if she had known how much fees at UC would be increased. She believed it was unfair to ask students who intended to work in the public and non-profit sectors to bear the brunt of fee increases.

G. Mr. Maurice Rabb, a Boalt Hall student, reported that he had chosen Berkeley in part because of its low cost. He believed that low fees were crucial because UC schools cannot offer competitive financial aid. He hoped the Regents would be mindful that lower-income students of color could be priced out of attending a UC school.

H. Mr. Steve Fields, Executive Director of Progress Foundation, a local nonprofit mental health provider, commented that the UC Berkeley Labor Center had been a critical part of the ability of nonprofit organizations to address the recruitment and retention of qualified workers. He noted that the nonprofit sector relied on the Berkeley Labor Center to provide a forum for addressing critical issues. He urged restoration of funding for labor center programs at the University.

I. Mr. Art Pulaski, representing the California Labor Federation, commented that there was no program other than the labor centers to support cutting edge research related to working people’s issues. He asked that funding be continued for the labor studies program, as its budget had already been reduced from $5 million to $3.8 million.

J. Mr. David Brody, a UC Davis professor working in labor history, urged that funding for UC’s labor and employment programs be maintained at current levels. He noted that the labor and employment program has brought unique research strength to the University and brings together resources from all the campuses.

K. Mr. Roberto Hernandez, a UC Berkeley graduate student, reported that the Labor Center affects working families more than any other UC entity. He noted that many of his colleagues from the Center had committed themselves to public service, a reflection of the larger mission of the UC system. He advocated restoring funding for the labor institutes.
Item 504, Committee on Finance: Best Practices for Sustainability in Transportation

L. Ms. Dorothy Le, a UCLA student representing the California Student Sustainability Coalition, noted that a report on best practices for sustainability would be presented at the meeting of the Committee on Finance. She referred to the successful partnership between CSSC and the Office of the President relative to sustainable transportation.

M. Mr. Ted Buehler, representing the California Student Sustainability Coalition, encouraged the Regents to listen carefully to the report on sustainable transportation that was on the agenda. He noted that growth in the next ten years would cause increasing transportation-related problems. He was hopeful that UC administrators could be encouraged to focus on alternative transportation.

N. Mr. Kamyab Sadaghiani, a Santa Barbara student representing the California Student Sustainability Coalition, believed the University should invest in providing affordable housing along transit lines to campuses and building integrated bike routes to make alternative transportation more attractive.

O. Mr. Soumil Mehta, a Santa Barbara student representing the California Student Sustainability Coalition, suggested the establishment of 70 percent within ten years as a target to increase commuter use of alternative transportation and 85 percent after that. He also advocated using alternative energy sources to run the UC fleet.

University-related Matters

P. Mr. Tristan Reed, representing UC Sudan Divestment Task Force, believed it was important for the University to divest from Sudan in order to bring economic pressure to bear on the Sudanese government to end genocide in Darfur. He noted that some state pension systems and universities have voted to divest from Sudan.

Q. Mr. Mike Smith, representing the UC Sudan Divestment Task Force, reported that despite a reduction in military attacks on civilians, the genocide in Darfur has not stopped. He believed that through divestment private citizens and institutional investors could make genocide economically prohibitive to the government of Sudan.

R. Mr. David Attanasio, representing the UC Sudan Divestment Task Force, recalled that the University had divested from South Africa in order to help end apartheid. He believed that because of its commitment to human rights the University has a responsibility to respond to the genocide in Darfur by divesting.

S. Ms. Laura Miller, a UC Berkeley student and member of the Butt Out Coalition, reported that Philip Morris had used research funding at UCLA’s School of Public Health to create confusion and ambiguity about the dangers of smoking in the mind of the public. She asked that tobacco-funded research at the University be investigated.

The Committee adjourned at 9:35 a.m.
Attest:

Secretary