

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

January 17, 2007

The Regents of the University of California met on the above date at UCSF–Mission Bay Community Center, San Francisco.

Present: Regents Blum, Coombs, De La Peña, Dynes, Gould, Hopkinson, Johnson, Kozberg, Lansing, Ledesma, Lozano, Marcus, Núñez, O’Connell, Parsky, Pattiz, Preuss, Ruiz, Schilling, and Schreiner

In attendance: Regents-designate Allen, Brewer, and Bugay, Faculty Representatives Brown and Oakley, Acting Secretary Shaw, General Counsel Robinson, Chief Investment Officer Berggren, Provost Hume, Executive Vice President Darling, Vice Presidents Foley, Gomes, Hershman, and Sakaki, Chancellors Birgeneau, Bishop, Córdova, Drake, Fox, Vanderhoef, and Yang, Acting Chancellors Abrams, Blumenthal, and Park, Laboratory Director Chu, University Auditor Reed, and Recording Secretary Bryan

The meeting convened at 8:35 a.m. with Chairman Parsky presiding.

1. **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 agenda-related and University-related matters. The following persons addressed the Board concerning the subjects noted.

Item 307, Committee on Educational Policy: Naming of UC Labor Program after Miguel Contreras

- A. Mr. Art Pulaski, representing the California Labor Federation, recalled that, as the leader of the Los Angeles County Federal of Labor, Miguel Contreras, who died unexpectedly at an early age, had fought for the rights of working people. He was very involved in advancing the cause of education for working class students and had wanted to pass a ballot measure in Los Angeles that would have allowed community college students from working class families to receive school books for free. Mr. Pulaski supported naming the UC Labor institute in his name. He noted that for the third year, the Governor had omitted funding for the labor institutes from his budget. He urged the Regents to continue seeking the reinstatement of that funding. He believed that the University should be transparent in terms of negotiations with its unions.
- B. Mr. Daniel Neria, a UC student, spoke in support of the naming of the labor center for Mr. Contreras and discussed his internship in a program there which

concentrated on labor law. He believed that programs such as the summer internship were valuable in providing students with experiential learning.

- C. Ms. Ruth Milkman, UCLA Professor, spoke in support of the proposal, commenting that the program supports faculty and graduate student research on a variety of labor and employment topics and has made UC a nationally recognized leader in this interdisciplinary field.

Item 4RP, Special Committee on Regents' Procedures: Establishment of Permanent Positions of Staff Advisors to The Regents

- D. Ms. Patt Takeuchi spoke in support of the establishment of permanent staff advisor positions. She believed that the advisors provide an invaluable service. She urged staff to become involved in the Council of UC Staff Assemblies.

Item RE89, Committee on Finance: Adoption of Policy Restricting University Acceptance of Funding from the Tobacco Industry

- E. Ms. Ruth Malone, a UCSF Professor, speaking in support of the policy, discussed the tobacco industry's manipulation of the research process. She believed that the industry seeks to fund research at prestigious institutions to create doubt and confusion about the effects of tobacco use.

University-related Issues

- F. Mr. Kevin Rooney, a UC employee, believed that the University's unwillingness to provide certain information concerning its pension fund had hampered union coalition negotiations. He was hopeful that the unions' requests would be honored.
- G. Mr. Nino Maida, a UC employee, spoke on behalf of the 60,000 represented UC employees who are directly affected by pension fund bargaining. He stated that the University was legally obligated to provide the pension fund data that employees have requested.
- H. Mr. Shag Yamamoto, a UC employee, took exception to UC's policy of offering low-interest home loans to its executives.
- I. Ms. Judy McKeever, representing AFSCME Local 3299, expressed concern about transparency in the bargaining process. She believed that pension stakeholders should have representation on the UCRS Board.
- J. Ms. Lakesha Harrison, representing AFSCME Local 3299, observed that employees had been cut out of the decision-making process with respect to their pensions. She urged the University to comply with the unions' requests for information.

- K. Ms. Margaret Mann, representing AFSCME 3299, stated that the University intended to shift more of the cost of benefits to its employees, many of whom are underpaid. She believed it was unethical to make this type of decision without employee participation and input.
- L. Mr. James Darby, representing the California Nurses Association, noted the University's low pay scale makes it difficult to hire a sufficient number of nurses and that many who are hired were attracted by the benefits. If these become too expensive, that incentive will disappear. He believed that the University should recommence its contributions to the pension fund before asking employees to do so.
- M. Mr. Rich Sawransky, representing AFSCME Local 3299, believed that the University should respond to the unions' requests for information concerning the transfer of employees at the Los Alamos National Laboratory out of UCRS, a change that could affect the future of the pension fund adversely.
- N. Ms. Mary Higgins, representing the Coalition of University Employees, encouraged The Regents to reinstate funding for the labor centers. She underscored the need for the information that the unions had asked for pertaining to UCRS.
- O. Ms. Louise Hendrickson, representing the UC Graduate Student Association, was opposed to increases in student fees. She urged The Regents to vote against any increase at the March meeting.
- P. Ms. Cindy Mosqueda, representing the UC Student Association, noted a common concern among students about the high cost of professional fees. She believed it was an extreme hardship and that further increases would deter students from pursuing careers in public service.
- Q. Ms. Tina Park, representing UCSA, noted that the University not only intended to increase student fees but also expected students to work more hours. She believed those attending the University should not be forced to become part-time students and full-time workers.

2. **REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Dynes commented that he expected 2007 to be a pivotal year for the University as it pursues a new course to address the future needs of California. He recalled that the year had begun auspiciously with the supportive budget provided by the Governor. The Regents will still have some serious issues to consider, however, including the student fees, resuming retirement fund contributions, and reinstatement of funding for academic preparation and labor research programs. The Governor's research and innovation initiative was a year-end gift to the State. He is proposing nearly \$95 million for major research projects aimed at boosting the State's economy and preserving the environment.

The initiative centers on University research enterprises or proposals, including the Helios Project at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, an invitation to the Berkeley and San Diego campuses to compete to build an energy biosciences institute, funding to support operating costs for the Institutes for Science and Innovation, and a bid by the Berkeley laboratory and the UC San Diego supercomputer center to win a competition to build a pedascale computer.

Turning to health care, he commented on some examples of the University's role in biomedical breakthroughs and enhanced clinical care, including discoveries about the brains of people at risk for Alzheimer's, factors that increase the risk of stroke, and a Canada-U.S. initiative pertaining to research on speeding up response times to disease outbreaks.

In concluding his remarks, President Dynes congratulated Regent Lansing, who has been voted the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award by the Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts, and Sciences.

President Dynes introduced Professor George Smoot, a physicist at UC Berkeley and 2006 Nobel Laureate, honored, along with John Mather, for his discovery of the blackbody form and anisotropy of the cosmic microwave background radiation. Professor Smoot discussed his work on the infancy of the Universe and attempts to gain some understanding of the origin of galaxies and stars. He reported that measurements made with the help of NASA's COBE satellite provided increased support for the Big Bang scenario for the origin of the Universe, as this is the only scenario that predicts the kind of cosmic microwave background radiation measured by COBE. Subsequent studies using the WMAP satellite yielded even clearer images of the background radiation. Very soon the European Planck satellite will be launched in order to study the radiation in even greater detail.

According to the Big Bang scenario, the cosmic microwave background radiation is a relic of the earliest phase of the Universe. Immediately after the big bang itself, the Universe can be compared to a glowing "body emitting radiation in which the distribution across different wavelengths depends solely on its temperature. The shape of the spectrum of this kind of radiation has a special form known as blackbody radiation. When it was emitted, the temperature of the Universe was almost 3,000 degrees Centigrade. Since then, according to the Big Bang scenario, the radiation has gradually cooled as the Universe has expanded. Today, measurable background radiation corresponds to a temperature that is barely 2.7 degrees above absolute zero, a calculation made possible thanks to the blackbody spectrum revealed by the COBE measurements.

Professor Smoot stated that this is a Golden Age of cosmology which offers opportunities through education and outreach for observations that lead to an intellectual understanding of the Universe and the Earth's place in it.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Attest:

Acting Secretary