

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

March 15, 2007

The Regents of the University of California met on the above date at Covell Commons, Los Angeles campus.

Members present: Regents Blum, De La Peña, Dynes, Hopkinson, Island, Johnson, Ledesma, Marcus, Preuss, Ruiz, and Schilling

In attendance: Regents-designate 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 Broome and Foley, Chancellors Birgeneau, Drake, Fox, Kang, Vanderhoef, and Yang, Acting Chancellors Abrams and Blumenthal, University Auditor Reed, and Recording Secretary Bryan

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. with Chairman Blum presiding.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Blum 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.

Item F3, Approval of Proposed Increases in Student Fees for 2007-08

- A. Ms. Monica Sanchez, student at UCLA and President of the Graduate Student Association, spoke on behalf of professional and graduate students regarding the need to keep fees low for low-income families. Financial aid models are not supportive of professional school students. Many professional school students do not receive parental support, and may be parents themselves. Further fee increases will force middle- and low-income graduate students to leave UC, resulting in a potential diversity crisis.
- B. Ms. Louise Hendrickson, student at UC Riverside and Executive Vice President of the Graduate Student Association, stated that the fee increase may force her to transfer to another school where financial aid will be available. Financial aid for graduate students is not keeping up with fee increases.

University Pension Negotiations

- C. Ms. Mary Higgins, UC employee and union member, stated that many employees will rely solely on the University's retirement plan when they retire, and urged The Regents to fund the retirement plan adequately.

British Petroleum Energy Biosciences Institute Grant

- D. Ms. Dorothy Le, student at UCLA, stated that biosciences research must be transparent. There are important conflicts between serving the public interest and serving corporate interests. Conflicts also exist between corporate interests and freedom of the researcher. It is vital to identify points of conflict and employ safeguards. She encouraged The Regents to investigate the UC Berkeley and BP contract, to work democratically, and to develop due policy and procedures for large corporate funding on UC campuses.

University-related Issues

- E. Mr. Rich Reed, a UCSB alumnus, stated that the University is supporting unnecessary education in the area of English. Transformations to simplify English spellings are now feasible with computers, and such reforms can largely solve English illiteracy. He urged The Regents to speak with computer experts to computerize the transformation process for fundamental spelling reforms.
- F. Ms. Suzanne Duckett, parent of a 4H student, stated there are systemic problems in the 4H program that need to be addressed. She urged for the appointment of an external auditor and advisor to study 4H administration.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Attest:

Acting Secretary