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

May 15, 2008

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

Members present: Regents Allen, Blum, Brewer, Bugay, Dynes, Garamendi, Gould, Hotchkis, Island, Lozano, Marcus, Pattiz, Reiss, Ruiz, Schilling, Varner, and Wachter

In attendance: Regents-designate Cole, Scorza, and Shewmake, Faculty Representatives Brown and Croughan, Secretary and Chief of Staff Griffiths, Associate Secretary Shaw, General Counsel Robinson, Chief Investment Officer Berggren, Provost Hume, Executive Vice Presidents Darling and Lapp, Vice Presidents Beckwith, Foley, Lenz, and Sakaki, Chancellors Block, Blumenthal, Drake, Fox, Kang, Vanderhoef, and Yang, Acting Chancellor Grey, and Recording Secretary Smith

The meeting convened at 8:50 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.

A. Mr. Jason Ahmadi, a UCB alumnus, alleged that the Regents are in violation of international non-proliferation agreements through the University’s involvement in nuclear weapons research. He criticized the salary awarded to the UC Berkeley chief of police, who was rehired after retirement, as a waste of funds.

B. Mr. Evan Shulman, a representative of Students for a Democratic Society, noted that the Iraq war has entered its sixth year and discussed its catastrophic impact on Americans and Iraqis. He decried the use of tax monies to support the war rather than public education. He called on the Regents to renounce their perceived role in funding and profiting from the war in Iraq.

C. Mr. Steve Storman, a UCSB student and representative of the Coalition to Demilitarize the UC, argued that the University’s management of the Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore nuclear weapons laboratories does not constitute a public service and urged the University to focus on providing high-quality, affordable education.
D. Mr. Ben Tokstorf, a UCSB student, expressed concern about statements made at the March 2008 meeting about plutonium pit production at the Los Alamos laboratory, which he alleged were misleading and factually incorrect.

E. Ms. Caitlin Ezell, a UCSB student, contested a statement made at the March 2008 meeting that the core mission of the Department of Energy laboratories is civilian science and technology, and stated that 80 percent of the Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore laboratories’ budget is slated for nuclear weapons activities.

F. Ms. Patty Zavala, a UCSB alumna, identified the Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore laboratories as the two most vital facilities within the U.S. nuclear weapons complex. She opined that the University does not provide ethical oversight of work done at the laboratories, and stressed that all U.S. nuclear weapons have been developed in part by UC employees.

G. Mr. Nick Robinson, a UCSB alumnus, described the production and testing of nuclear weapons as a threat to the future of the entire planet and stated that the Department of Energy laboratories and UC have played an integral role in bringing about this situation. He expressed skepticism about the University’s past or present ability to exert an “ethical check” on the laboratories.

H. Ms. Mallory Wagie, a UCSB student, asked the Regents to examine the role of the University in plutonium pit production at the Los Alamos laboratory. She stated that production of new fissile cores for nuclear weapons is a violation of the U.S.’s obligation under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

I. Mr. Daniel Challfield, a UCSB student, stated that he and previous speakers are members of the Student Department of Energy Laboratory Oversight Committee and wish to provide information to the Regents. He provided the contact email address for the Committee.

J. Mr. David Shukla, a representative of Students for a Democratic Society, decried the Regents’ decision to raise fees and perceived failure to act in the interest of the students or the mission of the University. He requested full disclosure of UC investments, immediate withdrawal of direct investments in companies that profit from the war in Iraq, and an investment policy change to exclude war manufacturers and military contractors.

K. Ms. Lorna Apper, a UCLA doctoral student, expressed concern about investments in companies that profit from war and urged transparency in the management of the University’s financial holdings. She requested disclosure of UC investments, that the University pursue divestment from weapons manufacturers, and that UC investment policy exclude military contractors.

L. Mr. Michael Fehr, a UCLA computer resource specialist and member of the University Professional and Technical Employees Union, noted incoming
President Yudof’s salary and stated that more than 17,000 UC employees earned more than $100,000 in the 2006-07 year. He stressed that many UC employees earn less than half that amount and cannot afford mortgages with a salary below fair market levels. He stated that UC salaries are not linked to the State budget.

M. Mr. Matthew Taylor, a UCB student, noted that Chairman Blum was honored as Global Citizen of the Year at International House on the Berkeley campus and reported a statement by Chairman Blum in favor of nuclear abolition. Mr. Taylor urged the Regents to end UC’s development of nuclear weapons.

N. Ms. Louise Hendrickson, a UCR graduate student and president of the UC Student Association (UCSA), quoted a statement on diversity by the Academic Senate. She urged the University to implement the recommendations made in the reports of the work teams of the Study Group on University Diversity.

O. Mr. Jesse Bernal, a UCSB graduate student and board member of UCSA, referred to the report on undergraduate diversity, to be presented later that day. He urged the Regents not to take the University’s Statement on Diversity lightly and stressed that the reports of the Study Group on University Diversity must be followed by concrete and timely action.

P. Ms. Bert María Cueva, a UCLA graduate student, expressed concern about lack of services for students with disabilities. Citing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), she noted that UCLA does not have mandatory training for faculty and staff regarding UC regulations and federal and State laws which protect students with disabilities, and advocated that such training be instituted.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff