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

July 17, 2008

The Regents of the University of California met on the above date at University Center, Santa Barbara Campus.


In attendance: Regents-designate Bernal, Nunn Gorman, and Stovitz, Faculty Representatives Brown and Croughan, Secretary and Chief of Staff Griffiths, Associate Secretary Shaw, General Counsel Robinson, Chief Investment Officer Berggren, Chief Compliance and Audit Officer Vacca, Provost Hume, Executive Vice Presidents Darling and Lapp, Vice Presidents Beckwith, Dooley, Foley, Lenz, and Sakaki, Chancellors Blumenthal, Drake, Kang, Vanderhoef, and Yang, Acting Chancellor Grey, Chancellor-designate White, and Recording Secretary Johns

The meeting convened at 10:25 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. Paul Biane, chairman of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, expressed support for the School of Medicine at UC Riverside. He cited the critical shortage of physicians in the Inland Empire and support for the medical school from government leaders, the medical and business sectors, and community groups. He stressed the importance of maintaining the momentum of this project.

B. Ms. Cindy Roth, president and CEO of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, urged the Regents to approve the UCR School of Medicine. She cited a recent study showing the $1.1 billion economic impact of UCR on the state economy. She emphasized that the School of Medicine will only strengthen the positive impact that UCR already has on the Inland Empire community.

C. Mr. Jack Clark, attorney, UCR alumnus, and long-time Riverside resident, urged the Regents to move forward with the UCR School of Medicine. He pointed out that UCR is one of the most ethnically diverse research universities in the country. The School of Medicine would provide the Riverside campus with a unique
opportunity to develop a diverse physician workforce. He stressed the tangible value of this undertaking.

D. Dr. Thomas Haider, an orthopedic surgeon with almost twenty years of practice in Riverside, noted the difficulty of recruiting physicians to Riverside. The School of Medicine at UCR would help alleviate the shortage of physicians and improve medical care in the community. He urged the Regents to approve the UCR School of Medicine.

E. Mr. Walter Kohn, UCSD and UCSB professor emeritus of physics and Nobel Laureate, noted his long-term involvement with issues at the Department of Energy laboratories. He recalled that the development of the atomic bomb and all nuclear weapons during the Cold War was carried out under the auspices of UC. He urged the University to phase out its involvement in the development of nuclear weapons and to focus its efforts on problems of clean energy and global warming. The University can and should become a world leader in these fields.

F. Mr. Adrian Drummond-Cole, a UCSB alumnus, alleged that contract workers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory were knowingly exposed to the toxic metal beryllium for five months. He criticized UC aerosol experiments with pathogens and UC nuclear weapons research at the National Ignition Facility.

G. Ms. Joanne Murray, a UCSB employee of 31 years and steward for the Coalition of University Employees (CUE), expressed support for the strike by patient care and service employees of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). She observed that many UC employees earn less than $10 an hour and must find other part-time work to make ends meet in Santa Barbara. She urged the University, as a highly-rated public institution, to treat its workers fairly.

H. Mr. David Krieger, president of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, stated that the University’s relationship to nuclear weapons laboratories may cause UC to commit illegal acts under international law, perpetuates U.S. reliance on nuclear weapons, and undermines U.S. and global security. He urged UC to support the student Laboratory Oversight Committee, to divest funds from corporations involved in nuclear weapons creation, and to withdraw from oversight and management of the nuclear weapons laboratories.

I. Ms. Rebecca Redman, a UCSB student, spoke on behalf of the UC Student Department of Energy (DOE) Laboratory Oversight Committee. She noted that the Committee had met with Regent Pattiz. She stated that one of the Committee’s goals is to provide the Regents with accurate factual information on the work of the national laboratories.

J. Mr. Nick Robinson, a UCSB alumnus, stated that information provided at the May 2008 Regents meeting about plutonium pit production at the Los Alamos
Mr. Steve Stormoen, a UCSC alumnus, stated that the plutonium pits at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) are manufactured for installation in W88 warheads. Each W88 warhead carries a yield of 475 kilotons, a destructive capacity 32 times that of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. In 2007, LANL produced enough nuclear firepower to obliterate several countries.

Ms. Tracy Sachs, a UCLA student, cited figures for the destructive potential of plutonium pit production at LANL last year, which she claimed represents only 0.1 percent of the nuclear weapons inventory of the U.S. She condemned the University’s involvement in the development of weapons of mass destruction for over six decades.

Ms. Hannah Frieds, a UCLA alumna, applauded Lieutenant Governor Garamendi for introducing to the Regents a critical discourse regarding UC management of the nuclear weapons laboratories. She believed statements in favor of nuclear abolition by some Regents are hypocritical since the University presides over central institutions of the U.S. nuclear weapons complex.

Ms. Juliet Ovalle, a UCLA student, stated that the UC Student DOE Laboratory Oversight Committee does not favor unilateral disarmament by the U.S., but seeks to point out that the development of new nuclear weapons is not a path to disarmament. She stated that UC’s actions contribute to a new global arms race and violate international treaty commitments.

Ms. Kaitlyn Ezell, a UCSB student, stated that there has been no degradation in the performance of nuclear stockpile systems due to plutonium aging. She cited the existence of 10,000 stockpiled U.S. plutonium pits, none over fifty years old, as evidence that there is no justification for the creation of new plutonium pits. She cautioned that the University’s reputation would be tarnished through its involvement with nuclear weapons development.

Ms. Kathryn Murray, a Santa Barbara resident and UCSC student, criticized how UC Santa Barbara conducts its business. She urged the University to pay its workers higher wages and observed that Santa Barbara City College pays its workers 20 percent more. Ms. Murray expressed opposition to UC’s involvement in nuclear weapons development, especially uranium mining.

Ms. Manuela Sosa, a UCR alumna who participated in planning for the new School of Medicine, urged the Regents to approve the School. She asked that the medical school faculty and students proportionally reflect the ethnic diversity of
the Inland Empire, and that the medical school student body be culturally and linguistically competent to serve that population.

R. Mr. Edward Woolfolk, a UCSB employee of more than 35 years, observed that there has been deterioration in student services, and that there is discrimination and harassment of campus workers which may involve a language barrier. He urged the University to treat workers fairly.

S. Mr. Dennis Lopez, a representative of the Chicano/Latino Coalition for Educational Equity and English Learners of the Inland Empire, noted the Coalition’s requests for a meeting with the Committee on Educational Policy, and for the establishment of an organized research unit on the needs of English language learners and educational equity needs. He referred to documents the Coalition provided to Regents. He pointed out that in 2015, the Inland Empire population is projected to be 51 percent Chicano/Latino, and stated that the new medical school curriculum must address cultural competency and minority language needs.

T. Ms. Lakshmi Santhosh, a UCB student, discussed the concept of democracy. She criticized the Board of Regents as not truly democratic, although appointed by an elected Governor.

U. Ms. Laura Zelko, a UCB student, read a statement by Mr. Frank Woodruff Buckles, age 107, the last surviving U.S. veteran of World War I. Mr. Buckles asked that the Berkeley campus not bulldoze the Memorial Oak Grove at California Memorial Stadium. He recalled that the grove was planted in 1923 to honor his fellow soldiers, the more than 116,000 Americans who died in World War I. He asked that the University build its athletic facility in another place.

V. Mr. Ken Rivas expressed support for the strike by AFSCME workers and asked the University to reach a settlement with a fair contract and fair wages for its employees.

W. Mr. Eliot Burk explained that he had signed up to speak for the UC Student DOE Laboratory Oversight Committee, but that the group had finished its statement.

X. Ms. Valerie opined that the University’s management of the national laboratories is not a public service. She stated that it would be a public service for the University to give its workers a fair contract and living wages.
The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff