

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

September 17, 2009

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

Members present: Regents Bass, Bernal, De La Peña, Garamendi, Gould, Island, Johnson, Kieffer, Kozberg, Lansing, Makarechian, Marcus, Nunn Gorman, Pattiz, Ruiz, Schilling, Stovitz, Varner, Wachter, Yudof, and Zettel

In attendance: Regents-designate Cheng, DeFreece, and Hime, Faculty Representatives Powell and Simmons, Secretary and Chief of Staff Griffiths, Associate Secretary Shaw, General Counsel Robinson, Chief Investment Officer Berggren, Chief Compliance and Audit Officer Vacca, Interim Provost Pitts, Executive Vice Presidents Darling and Taylor, Interim Executive Vice President Brostrom, Senior Vice President Stobo, Vice Presidents Lenz and Sakaki, Chancellors Birgeneau, Block, Blumenthal, Desmond-Hellmann, Drake, Fox, Kang, Katehi, White, and Yang, and Recording Secretary Harms

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

1. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOSPITAL

Chairman Gould announced that Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and representatives from Los Angeles County had come to the meeting to offer comments on the proposed partnership between UC and Los Angeles County to reopen the Martin Luther King Hospital (MLK).

[Regents were provided with a packet of correspondence received regarding this item, and copies are on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff. An additional letter was distributed during the meeting, which is also on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff.]

A. Mr. Ridley-Thomas noted that the reopening of MLK was one of the most important issues facing the County of Los Angeles. The Board of Supervisors for Los Angeles County is committed to moving forward with the hospital and with providing high-quality patient care to the community. Mr. Ridley-Thomas acknowledged the cooperation of President Yudof and Dr. Stobo, and said that Los Angeles County was hoping to increase its level of engagement with the Regents with the intent of collaborating to create a first rate, innovative model of patient care.

- B. Mr. William T. Fujioka, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Los Angeles County, informed the Regents that he had worked closely with Dr. Stobo's team and the State to develop a partnership for MLK that is both operationally and financially viable. The County intends to invest \$354 million in the construction of a brand-new multipurpose ambulatory care facility and in the renovation of the one existing facility on site that is seismically compliant. The County also plans to employ federal stimulus funds for a health information exchange system that will improve the provision of care not only at MLK but also across the entire Los Angeles community. Mr. Fujioka emphasized that the structure of the proposed partnership with UC represents a binding commitment for the County at the very highest level. The County has pledged \$50 million in one-time start up costs, and an ongoing \$63 million to the project; the hospital represents a priority funding commitment for the County. Mr. Fujioka remarked that he had once run a county hospital, and that he is a strong advocate for public health. He stressed that the partnership between UC and Los Angeles County would result in the highest quality care for the community.
- C. Dr. Keith Norris, Interim President of Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science and an Assistant Professor in Residence at the Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, stated that he has cared for thousands of patients at MLK over the last 20 years. For many of them, it was the only source of care within miles of their homes. Dr. Norris noted that the training that occurred at the hospital was critical; a key component of the national effort to reform healthcare is the commitment to ensuring that the supply of physicians, dentists, and other health professionals keeps pace with the country's diverse, growing, and aging population. He expressed his belief that the planned comprehensive medical campus would be pivotal in creating a model of community-level health and wellness for underserved urban and rural communities. He stated that Charles Drew University is committed to joining this effort in a mutually beneficial way.
- D. Mr. Gary Toebben, President of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce voiced the Chamber's strong support for the partnership between UC and the County. Businesses in the area are keenly aware of the importance of a healthcare safety-net to the economy and to the community. He expressed confidence that a partnership between UC and the County would be successful, and that it would have widespread support from the community.
- E. Ms. Lark Galloway-Gilliam, Executive Director of the Community Health Councils, informed the Regents that she is a resident of South Los Angeles and an alumna of UCLA. Speaking on behalf of the South Los Angeles Healthcare Leadership Roundtable, a network of community clinics and safety net hospitals, she stressed that the South Los Angeles community is desperate, but it is also rich in history, innovation, and is resilient. She expressed the determination of the Council to be a part of the planning for MLK.

- F. Ms. Raahi Reddy, Chief of Staff for Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 721, stated that her organization represents over 20,000 healthcare employees in Los Angeles County. She expressed SEIU's desire to support the proposed integrated health system. She noted that SEIU also believes that the best and only way to ensure quality is to have a healthcare system where frontline employees – nurses, doctors, laboratory technicians, and custodians – are involved in its design and implementation.
- G. Ms. Barbara Siegel, an attorney with Neighborhood Legal Services, Health Consumer Center, explained that her organization advocates for patient rights. She compared the number of hospital beds in South Los Angeles to other parts of the world. With fewer than one bed per 1,000 residents, South Los Angeles is comparable to Afghanistan and worse than Iraq. The American average is three beds per 1,000. She noted that the South Los Angeles area has the County's highest rate of obesity, its second-highest rate of adult diabetes, and its highest rate of adult cardiac disease.
- H. Ms. Angelica Solis spoke on behalf of Veronica Melvin, the Executive Director of the Alliance for a Better Community. She urged the Regents to approve the joint initiative for MLK and observed that it would provide an opportunity to train physicians to be culturally competent and responsive to the needs of their community. She cited a 2006 UCLA study that reported an extreme shortage of physicians who speak a second language and who are culturally competent. She noted that this deficiency further jeopardizes care in a community that is already underserved.
- I. Ms. Annie Park, representing the Coalition for Health and Justice, explained that the Coalition is a broad-based group of non-profit organizations, community advocates, service providers, and other stakeholders working in the South Los Angeles area to increase access to quality healthcare services. She stated that the Coalition has been working on reopening the hospital for the past five years. Because many group members were not able to attend the Regents meeting, the Coalition coordinated a postcard campaign supporting MLK. Ms. Park submitted over 1,000 of these postcards and encouraged the Regents to review the comments and to take into account the people who depend on the hospital.
- J. Reverend Norman Johnson, representing the Los Angeles Ecumenical Congress, a religious body comprised of seven historic African American denominations that represent more than 500 congregations in Los Angeles County, encouraged the Regents to support the MLK proposal and to restore quality to the public health system of Los Angeles County

Chairman Gould voiced his appreciation for the speakers' comments and for the time and effort of the Supervisors and other individuals who had journeyed from Los Angeles for the meeting.

Regent Bass also thanked the Supervisor and other representatives who came to San Francisco. She noted that she had been long acquainted with most of the individuals who spoke, and knows that they have worked tirelessly to support the reopening of MLK. Regent Bass expressed her appreciation for the apt depiction of the situation by the representative from Neighborhood Legal Services. She informed the Regents that over 600,000 residents of the South Los Angeles community lack the services of a nearby hospital; she offered her opinion that individuals likely had lost their lives because of this deficiency in care. As a former member of the clinical faculty at the University of Southern California Medical School and a former staff physician's assistant at a county general hospital, Regent Bass said that she is well aware of the consequences of the loss of local medical services.

Regent Bass thanked President Yudof and his staff, Chairman Gould, and Committee Chair Lansing for their diligence and commitment. She offered her time and assistance to ensure that the issue would be brought for action at the November Regents meeting. She expressed concern that additional delays would place the partnership and project in jeopardy.

President Yudof expressed his appreciation to Supervisor Ridley-Thomas for his vision and devotion to healthcare for the residents of South Los Angeles. He stated that the University is committed to working closely with the County to bring the hospital proposal to fruition. He thanked all of the representatives from the Los Angeles area for taking the time to come to the meeting.

Chairman Gould voiced his appreciation for Regent Bass' comments, and committed to continue efforts to finalize the partnership. He observed that there are still some outstanding issues, but that the University has a public service mission and a shared passion for improved healthcare in underserved communities. The Chairman said he looked forward to addressing the proposal in November.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas remarked that he was confident that the University and the County could work through the issues and move forward to reopen the hospital.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Gould 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. Dr. Murray Morgan, a former employee at UC Davis, asked if Chancellor Katehi was present. He stated that he had been treated unjustly and unlawfully by the University. He asked for help regarding his retirement benefits, which he felt were insufficient.
- B. Mr. David Partida, a student at UC Santa Cruz, asked President Yudof not to raise student fees, not to lay off or furlough any workers, and not to diminish the

quality of the services he receives at the Santa Cruz campus. He asserted that part of the public service mission of the University is to provide care and high-quality academic training.

- C. Ms. Erin Brodwin, a student at UC San Diego, said that the future of UC students is threatened because of the proposed 32 percent fee increase. She is taking a job this year for the first time; she needs to support herself, her family, and to be able to graduate, all while earning \$10 an hour.
- D. Ms. Celina Ayala, a third-year student at UCSB and a representative of the UC Student Association (UCSA), stated that she fears that her degree is losing its value. She expects a higher level of education to accompany higher fees. She said she would accept Regent Blum's offer of a bus ticket to Sacramento to lobby on behalf of the University.
- E. Ms. Maryam Taeb, a student at UC Davis, observed that the Regents and UC administrators had made little effort in the past to lobby the Legislature for mandatory funding. She stated that if the funding crisis is the fault of the State, then the Board must work with the students to salvage funding. She expressed disgust at the levels of executive compensation and told the Regents that it was their job to secure the future of the students.
- F. Ms. R.K. Bose, a resident of Forest Knolls, behind the UCSF Parnassus campus, spoke in defense of Sutro Forest. She stated that the University plans to cut down approximately 3,000 trees in the 100-year-old eucalyptus forest planted by Adolph Sutro. Although the action is considered a fire-safety project, Ms. Bose stated that Sutro forest is a cloud forest, and that fire danger is minimal.
- G. Mr. Arthur Johnson, an employee of UC Davis and a member of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) 3299, stated that the financial crisis provides President Yudof with an opportunity to become a hero by not laying off workers and by making sure patients receive high-quality care. Mr. Johnson's four-year-old grandson receives treatment at UCSF for a brain tumor; Mr. Johnson said he is grateful for the care and wants it to continue.
- H. Mr. Edgar Perez, a surgical technician for 20 years and a UC employee for 10 years, told the Regents that last month he had attended a meeting where three of his co-workers were laid off: one with 10 years' experience, one with 15, and one with 20. He stated that the workers were escorted out by security, and had sustained psychological damage.
- I. Ms. Margaret Konjevod, a senior psychiatric technician at Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA, stated that President Yudof has an opportunity to solve the budget crisis. She expressed dismay that campus libraries were being forced to curtail their hours.

- J. Mr. Glenn Thomas, a board member of AFSCME 3299 and a worker at the UCI Medical Center, said he understands the gravity of the State's and the University's financial crises. However, he countered, the Regents had received suggestions regarding alternatives to layoffs and furloughs, and the Board had dismissed them. He remarked that the University is losing its standards and status because of the Board.
- K. Mr. Richard Smith, a MRI technologist at UCSD, asserted that he provides high-quality care in his work, and that he will fight unfair treatment by the Regents. He stated that the University and its workers are partners in every aspect with the exception of finances. He asked the Regents to consider the future of the students.
- L. Mr. William Sanchez, an employee of the UCD Medical Center, informed the Regents that many workers and students aspire to be as successful as the Regents. However, they will not be able to pursue that goal if they are laid off or unable to complete their education.

Regent Gould stated that he appreciated the comments and candor of the speakers.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff