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

May 20, 2010

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

Members present: Regents Bernal, De La Peña, Gould, Island, Kieffer, Lansing, Makarechian, Maldonado, Marcus, Nunn Gorman, Pattiz, Reiss, Stovitz, Varner, 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, Provost Pitts, Executive Vice Presidents Brostrom, Darling, and Taylor, Senior Vice Presidents Dooley and Stobo, Vice President Beckwith, Chancellors Block, Blumenthal, Desmond-Hellmann, Drake, Kang, Katehi, White, and Yang, and Recording Secretary Harms

The meeting convened at 8:40 a.m. with Chairman Gould presiding.

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.

1. Ms. Roberta Seid, who teaches at UC Irvine, urged the Regents to take leadership in response to groups who incite intolerance and hatred of Jews, Israelis, and supporters of Israel. She stated that many students no longer feel safe on campus, and she presented a letter signed by 64 UCI faculty urging the Regents to take action.

2. Ms. Wendy Ooteman, a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Radiology at UCSF, urged the University to come to an agreement on its contract to improve wages and benefits for postdoctoral scholars. She stated that her salary does not correlate to her expertise, and although she works more than full time, she does not earn enough to buy a house or support a family in San Francisco.

3. Dr. Stuart Bussey, a family physician and president of the Union of American Physicians and Dentists (UAPD), said that the union represents the 800 doctors working in the California prison system. He stated that UC’s medical centers face shrinking reimbursements and increasing competition, and questioned if the NuPhysicia partnership would cause greater financial instability for the University.
4. Ms. Sue Wilson, speaking on behalf of UAPD, stated that if UC assumes the responsibility for prison health care, it would have a duty to bargain with existing State unions. Furthermore, if it takes over the contract, it would inherit current prisoner and class-action lawsuits and would possibly have to pay for civil damages on behalf of the doctors.

5. Ms. Rosa-Anna Defilippis, a postdoctoral fellow at UCSF, urged the Regents to reach a contract with the union representing postdoctoral scholars for fair wages and benefits. She said that the University should give postdoctoral fellows pay increases every year.

6. Mr. Saif Zamar, an international postdoctoral fellow at UCSF, stated that the U.S. has always been the best country in which to do research. However, other countries have increased benefits and wages for postdoctoral students; UC has not.

7. Ms. Amy Smith, parent of Jordan Lager, a sophomore on the UC Davis men’s swimming and diving team, stated that Chancellor Katehi cut the team, along with men’s wrestling and women’s crew. She expressed her view that the students have a contract with the Chancellor and Regents which stipulates that UCD cannot discontinue any of the sports teams. She asked that the teams be reinstated for one more year.

8. Mr. Benjamin West spoke on behalf of the UC Davis athletic teams. He stated that the students at Davis fund the majority of the athletic department budget. The students agreed to pay athletic fees with the understanding that they would be used solely for grants and aid to student athletes, and that all registered undergraduates would have free admission to all UC Davis sporting events during the regular season.

9. Mr. Vuk Uskokovic, president of the Postdoctoral Scholars Association at UCSF, stated that the majority of UC postdoctoral fellows have chosen the United Auto Workers (UAW) as their official representative. He said that the UC postdoctoral fellows look forward to reaching an agreement between the UAW and UC. He stated that postdoctoral fellows deserve standardization in pay and opportunity.

10. Ms. Dorothy Jones-Davis, the postdoctoral representative on the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Academic Diversity at UCSF and mother of a 15-month-old child, stated that she is often asked how the University can attract and retain more underrepresented minority postdoctoral fellows. She stated that the most critical issue for these fellows is the extremely high cost of living in the communities surrounding the campuses. She said that a fair cost of living pay increase for postdoctoral fellows and subsidized childcare would allow UC to attract more applicants, both underrepresented and not.

11. Mr. Dustin Noack, a graduate of, and former wrestler at UC Davis who will be attending veterinary school at Davis, stated that sports programs enable many students to attend UC through scholarship programs. Cutting of sports such as wrestling sends a message to the 27,000 high school wrestlers, the majority of whom are underrepresented minority students, that they must choose between UC or wrestling. He urged the Regents to reinstate the athletic teams.
12. Ms. Evelin Szakal, an international postdoctoral fellow at UCSF, urged the University to come to an agreement with the union to improve wages and benefits to keep pace with the costs of housing and living in San Francisco. She asked why she was forced to think about her salary instead of high-level research.

13. Mr. Scott Weltz, Big West Conference Male Athlete of the Year and member of the Davis swimming and diving program, expressed his view that the cuts to athletics at Davis violate the contract between the students, the University, the Chancellor, and the Regents. One principle of the Division One program at Davis stipulated that UCD cannot reduce its broad-based program, but must seek to add sports. He said that the University should either stop collecting the athletic fees, or reinstate the eliminated programs for one year.

14. Mr. Scott Anderson, a clinical professor of medicine at UC Davis, spoke on behalf of the UAPD. He expressed concern about the telemedicine component of the UC NuPhysicia proposal. He said he practiced telemedicine briefly with the Department of Corrections, and it did not work well. He said that telemedicine also would not work for dentistry or psychiatry. He urged the Regents to reject the NuPhysicia proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff