THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
MEETING AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
January 19, 2012

The Regents of the University of California met on the above date at Highlander Union Building, Riverside campus.

Members present: Regents De La Peña, Gould, Hallett, Kieffer, Lansing, Makarechian, Marcus, Mireles, Pattiz, Pelliccioni, Reiss, Ruiz, Schilling, Varner, Yudof, and Zettel

In attendance: Regents-designate Mendelson, Rubenstein, and Stein, Faculty Representatives Anderson and Powell, Secretary and Chief of Staff Kelman, Associate Secretary Shaw, General Counsel Robinson, Chief Investment Officer Berggren, Chief Compliance and Audit Officer Vacca, Provost Pitts, Executive Vice President Brostrom, Chief Financial Officer Taylor, Senior Vice Presidents Dooley and Stobo, Vice Presidents Allen-Diaz, Beckwith, Darling, Duckett, Lenz, and Sakaki, Chancellors Block, Blumenthal, Desmond-Hellmann, Drake, Fox, Katehi, Leland, White, and Yang, and Recording Secretary McCarthy

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Lansing stated that, following the public comment period, the balance of the day’s sessions would be devoted to an important exploration of obtaining alternative non-tuition-based sources of revenue for the University in order to replace some funding previously provided by the State.

Chairman Lansing 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. She noted that the public comment period had been extended to at least one hour. The following persons addressed the Board concerning the items noted:

1. Ms. Patricia Morton, chair of both the UC Riverside Art History Department and the UCR Faculty Association, expressed concern about what she called the privatization and decline in educational excellence at the University. She stated that faculty have experienced increased class sizes, decreased time for individual contact with students, changes in curriculum to accommodate larger classes, many fewer teaching assistants, larger faculty workloads, too few courses offered to meet demand, longer time to degrees, and students’ leaving UCR because of increased tuition. She spoke in favor of plans not predicated on privatization or tuition increases to restore UC’s budget and urged support for the ReFund California pledge.
2. Ms. Stephanie Kay, lecturer in UCR’s University Writing Program, noted the importance of fundamental democratic institutions such as public education, and expressed concern about what she termed the privatization of the University when funds from student tuition exceed State support. She stated that proposals for tuition increases should be addressed at the structural level.

3. Mr. Elliott Kim, alumnus of UCR, commended the Regents for their work to maintain high-quality public higher education. He questioned administrative pay increases and the composition of the task force investigating the pepper spraying incident at UC Davis.

4. Ms. Gabriela Vasquez, UCR undergraduate student, expressed concern about the cost of her education and staff reductions.

5. Mr. Peter Mathews, professor at Cypress College, stated that many of his students transfer to UC and expressed concern about increasing tuition. He stated that he is the co-author of a ballot initiative, Proposition 1522, which would tax California crude oil extraction 15 percent to fund education.

6. Ms. Vanessa Carlisle, UC alumna, expressed concern about increasing tuition and high levels of student debt.

7. Mr. Alborz Ghandehari, UC San Diego graduate student, urged the Regents to support the Millionaires Tax, a financial transaction tax, and reform of Proposition 13. He expressed concern about tuition increases, high levels of student debt, and administrative salaries.

8. Mr. Anthony Cristofani, UC Riverside graduate student and instructor, criticized tuition increases, which in his opinion enabled the State to reduce UC funding. He stated his support for tax increases to fund education.

9. Ms. Rocio Hernandez expressed concern about tuition increases and high levels of student debt, given that many recent graduates are unemployed.

10. Mr. Mohamed Abumaye, UCSD graduate student, expressed concern about economic inequality and access to education, given increases in UC tuition.

11. Mr. Kevin Whalen, UC Riverside graduate student, urged the Regents to repeal Proposition 13, support the Millionaires Tax, and sign the ReFund California pledge.

12. Mr. Nikolai Smith, UC San Diego graduate student, expressed concern about the current cost of higher education in light of the California Master Plan for Higher Education (Master Plan). He urged support for a tax on the wealthy to support education.

13. Mr. Hector Guzman, San Bernardino Valley College student, stated that the Master Plan calls for free public higher education, but tuition increases have affected access,
particularly for underrepresented groups. He urged the Regents to support ballot initiatives that would increase taxes to support education.

14. An unidentified man stated that he would like to substitute a system of self-governance for the current system of governance at the University.

15. Mr. Dennis Lopez, of the Chicano/Latino Coalition for Educational Equity and English Learners of the Inland Empire, stated that the Coalition has worked with Chancellor White, Executive Vice Chancellor Dallas Rabenstein, and Interim Dean Douglas Mitchell and their predecessors since 2007 to support the Coalition’s goal of addressing the educational needs of the Chicano/Latino population of the Inland Empire.

16. Mr. Olivier Bouan, vice chair of the University of California Student Association (UCSA) Council on Student Fees, expressed support for ballot initiatives that would guarantee restored funding for higher education, such as the Millionaires Tax, which he stated has no sunset clause and promises that 60 percent of generated revenue would fund higher education. He urged the Regents to support that initiative and reforms to Proposition 13.

17. Mr. Jonathan Ly, UCSA vice chair of student affairs, spoke in favor of having three student Regents, including an undergraduate, graduate, and professional school representative.

18. An unidentified UC Riverside student spoke in favor of increasing diversity at UC Riverside, particularly among faculty, graduate students, and staff. She noted the importance of the resource center for Chicana students. She stated that she has had to work 30 hours per week in addition to taking out loans to pay increased tuition. She expressed concern about undocumented students’ ability to pay increased tuition and noted her support for the UC Riverside School of Medicine.

19. Ms. Clare S. expressed concern about increasing tuition and high levels of student debt.

20. Ms. Cienna Davis, UC San Diego student, stated that increasing tuition would decrease the diversity of the student body.

21. An unidentified woman expressed frustration with the format of the public comment session.

22. Ms. Margaret Crowley, laboratory assistant and member of University Professional and Technical Employees Communications Workers of America (UPTE), expressed support for ballot initiatives that would increase taxes on the wealthy, and urged the Regents and chancellors to sign the ReFund California pledge.

23. Ms. Chris Benoit, member of the Coalition of University Employees (CUE) Teamsters, expressed concern about increasing tuition levels and urged the Regents to maintain the
affordability of UC for future generations. She urged the Regents to seek creative solutions to fund the University and maintain accessibility for California residents.

24. Mr. Jeffrey Koontz, of Occupy Los Angeles, expressed concern about corruption.

25. Ms. Lindsey Cristofani, UC transfer student, stated that UC is more expensive for her than the private university from which she transferred. She expressed concern about the affordability of UC for future students.

26. An unidentified man expressed support for finding alternative revenue sources for the University. He acknowledged the problems created by the reductions in State funding for UC and advocated using existing revenues for student education rather than administrative salaries.

27. Mr. Benjamin Wood, UC Santa Barbara graduate, stated that the reduction in State funding for UC is connected to tax rates for commercial properties under Proposition 13. He asked the Regents to lower tuition, cap administrative pay increases, sign the ReFund California pledge, and endorse reformation of Proposition 13.

28. An unidentified man expressed concern about the accessibility of UC Riverside for local students from low-income areas.

29. Ms. Suzanna Mujukian, UC Riverside undergraduate, expressed frustration with the format of the public comment period.

30. Mr. Jared Voskuhl, external vice president of UC Davis Law Students Association, commented that students should be informed about projected increases in fees for professional degree programs. He noted that UC Davis School of Law students entering in 2008-09 had seen their annual fees increase from $28,000 to $42,000, from the time of their admission to their graduation. He expressed his opinion that the University should notify students of foreseeable tuition increases so that a student’s acceptance of admission can be fully informed.

31. Mr. Preston Washington, UC Santa Barbara undergraduate and co-chair of the UCSB National Society of Black Engineers, expressed support for public higher education.

32. Ms. Sophia Armen, UC Santa Barbara undergraduate student, expressed her opposition to tuition increases and concern about high levels of student debt.

33. Mr. Ahmed Mostafa, UC Santa Barbara undergraduate and external vice president of statewide affairs of the Associated Students of UCSB, expressed concern about UCSB students’ representation during the public comment period and access to Regents’ meetings.

34. Mr. Mario Avalos, UCSB undergraduate, stated his concern about tuition increases, particularly given the financial needs of his family.
35. Mr. Toby Ward stated that the national level of student loan debt was currently higher than credit card debt, and expressed his opposition to tuition increases.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff