

The Regents of the University of California

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

May 16, 2012

The Committee on Educational Policy met on the above date at the Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Sacramento.

Members present: Regents Hallett, Island, Kieffer, Lozano, Mireles, Newsom, Pérez, and Reiss; Ex officio members Gould, Lansing, and Torlakson; Advisory members Powell, Rubenstein, and Stein; Staff Advisor Herbert

In attendance: Regents De La Peña, Pattiz, Pelliccioni, Schilling, Varner, Wachter, and Zettel, Faculty Representative Anderson, Secretary and Chief of Staff Kelman, Associate Secretary Shaw, General Counsel Robinson, Chief Investment Officer Berggren, Provost Pitts, Executive Vice President Brostrom, Chief Financial Officer Taylor, Senior Vice Presidents Dooley and Stobo, Vice Presidents Allen-Diaz, Darling, Duckett, Lenz, and Sakaki, Chancellors Blumenthal, Desmond-Hellmann, Drake, Fox, Katehi, Leland, White, and Yang, and Recording Secretary McCarthy

The meeting convened at 9:40 a.m. with Committee Chair Reiss presiding.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of March 29, 2012 were approved.

2. **REDESIGNATION OF WHITE MOUNTAIN RESEARCH STATION, MONO AND INYO COUNTIES, AS WHITE MOUNTAIN RESERVE, NATURAL RESERVE SYSTEM**

The President recommended that the White Mountain Research Station, a Universitywide Multicampus Research Unit, be redesignated as a component of the Natural Reserve System, and renamed the White Mountain Reserve effective immediately.

[Background material was mailed to Regents in advance of the meeting, and a copy is on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff.]

Provost Pitts briefly introduced the item.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the President's recommendation and voted to present it to the Board.

3. **REMARKS OF THE PROVOST**

Provost Pitts commented on some academic aspects of the budget issues confronting UC and cited specific examples of conditions on the campuses. Ladder-rank faculty are teaching larger classes. There are three percent fewer lecturers than there were two years prior.

Dr. Pitts reported that with fewer graduate student assistants, who are researchers as well as teachers, graduate education and faculty research are suffering. This includes not only laboratory research, but also ongoing interpretation of existing work in all disciplines that is the hallmark of a research university. Classes in some departments are being restricted to majors only. Some courses are offered only once a year. Campuses do not have enough large lecture halls to accommodate student enrollment in larger classes. Dr. Pitts stated there has been reduced access to student support services across all UC campuses, impacting undergraduate and graduate student retention, success, and graduation rates.

Dr. Pitts stated that the number of faculty at UC is decreasing; in the past year 189 faculty were hired, while nearly 500 separated from UC, for a loss of almost 250 faculty. Separations will continue, but given current budget realities, hiring replacement faculty has been severely reduced and some campuses have virtual hiring freezes.

Campuses are meeting their needs by using temporary one-time funds and through permanent reductions in workforce, mainly staff. Dr. Pitts stated that the budget cuts to UC over the prior 20 years have fallen more than three-to-one on campus administration, rather than on educational personnel. Going forward, the University will make permanent the largest percentage single-year cut it has faced since the Great Depression in 1934. The Provost expressed his view that efficiencies are critical, but that UC cannot cut its way to excellence.

Dr. Pitts cautioned that it has taken decades for the University to build a reputation that attracts the best and brightest minds from all over California, the nation, and the world. Preserving that standing is much easier than rebuilding it would be. He urged the Regents to have firmly in mind the preservation of UC's quality and excellence.

Committee Chair Reiss stated that the Board is aware of the crossroads at which UC stands as a result of years of budget cuts and is committed to maintaining UC's excellence.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff