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

July 18, 2013

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

Members present: Regents De La Peña, Feingold, Flores, Gould, Island, Kieffer, Lansing, Makarechian, Reiss, Ruiz, Schultz, Varner, Yudof, and Zettel

In attendance: Regents-designate Engelhorn, Leong Clancy, and Saifuddin, Faculty Representatives Jacob and Powell, Secretary and Chief of Staff Kelman, Associate Secretary Shaw, General Counsel Robinson, Chief Compliance and Audit Officer Vacca, Provost Dorr, Executive Vice President Brostrom, Chief Financial Officer Taylor, Senior Vice Presidents Dooley and Stobo, Vice Presidents Beckwith, Duckett, Lenz, and Sakaki, Chancellors Block, Blumenthal, Desmond-Hellmann, Dirks, Drake, Katehi, and Yang, Acting Chancellor Conoley, and Recording Secretary McCarthy

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Varner 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. California State Assemblyman Paul Fong emphasized the need to improve the statewide student transfer pathway for community college students, which has not worked as intended. Under Senate Bill 1440, passed in 2010, California community colleges offer an associate degree for transfer program which guarantees admission to the California State University system. Mr. Fong urged the University to implement an effective transfer degree pathway from community colleges to the UC system, as envisioned in his Assembly Bill 2302.

2. Ms. Jessie Ryan, associate director of the Campaign for College Opportunity, expressed support for the implementation of Assembly Bill 2302, the creation of an academically rigorous community college associate degree for transfer with admission to UC. Such a program would prepare transfer students for upper-division coursework at UC, increase successful transfer rates, and diversify the UC student populace.

3. Mr. Austin Walker, president of the Associated Students of UC San Francisco, thanked the Board for minimizing professional degree supplemental tuition increases in the upcoming year and urged UC to continue this effort. He cautioned that high student debt
upon graduation not only discourages UC medical school graduates from pursuing careers in primary care, it also causes UC to lose qualified students to other programs.

4. Mr. Jonathan Abboud, president of the Associated Students of UC Santa Barbara, expressed students’ view that online education should not be a cost-saving or revenue-generating measure, or a reason to hire fewer faculty, but a way to enhance current UC education.

5. Mr. Jonathan Ly, a representative of the UC Student Association, encouraged the Regents to continue their efforts to improve relationships with student leadership and students on campus and emphasized students’ wish to participate in shared governance at UC.

6. Mr. Charlie Eaton, a doctoral candidate in sociology at UC Berkeley, expressed concern about the growth of the University’s debt. He praised the Regents for initiating a lawsuit against a number of financial institutions for interest rate manipulation. He criticized interest rate swaps made by the University and stated that UC financial decision-making should be more transparent and inclusive, involving faculty, students, and employees.

7. Ms. Kathryn Lybarger, president of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 3299, criticized UC executive payroll increases and the growth of out-of-state student enrollment. She expressed concern about tuition increases, the UC debt burden, layoffs, reductions in course offerings and student services, understaffing, lagging patient satisfaction, substandard patient safety ratings, the privatization of public university research, and the fact that many UC workers qualify for public assistance.

8. Mr. Joseph Foy, a nursing student at UCSF and president of the Graduate Students’ Association, expressed his and other students’ opposition to increased professional degree supplemental tuition for nursing students. He warned that the debt load upon graduation forces nurses to seek higher-paying jobs and would lead to a dearth of primary care providers in underserved communities.

9. Ms. Priya Sawhney criticized laboratory testing of animals at UC, including hundreds of thousands of animals used for medical research at UCSF. She evoked the plight of laboratory animals kept in cages and stated that the Regents and the University would be judged in the future for the treatment and deaths of laboratory animals at UC.

10. Mr. Wayne Hsiung identified himself as the son of an animal researcher and described the strong impression that pictures of genetically manipulated and debilitated laboratory animals made on him as a child. He stated that if violence against a pet dog is wrong, it is wrong in the case of these animals, who are sentient creatures. The University should be opposed to animal research.

11. Mr. Chris Van Breen identified vivisection and the use of animal products for clothing as a kind of oppression by those who have power over others. He stated that the Regents
could stop animal testing at UC and that this is a moral imperative because animal research is not science, but violence.

12. Ms. Emma Moore, a nursing student at UCSF, expressed concern regarding increased professional degree supplemental tuition for nursing students. Of its 234,000 students, the University had singled out about 800 students, who are working to improve the health of their communities, for an increase. This action would convey a negative message that UC does not value nursing education, and other institutions might follow UC’s example.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff