THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
MEETING AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 
March 20, 2014

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, Napolitano, Newsom, Pattiz, Reiss, Schultz, Sherman, Varner, and Zettel

In attendance: Regents-designate Engelhorn, Leong Clancy, and Saifuddin, Faculty Representatives Gilly and Jacob, 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 President Stobo, Vice Presidents Andriola, Beckwith, Duckett, Lenz, Mara, and Sakaki, Chancellors Block, Blumenthal, Desmond-Hellmann, Drake, and Wilcox, and Recording Secretary McCarthy

The meeting convened at 10:30 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. Mr. A.J. Valenzuela, third-year UCSB student, stated that the Associated Students of UC Santa Barbara passed a resolution in favor of providing trigger warnings, which are alerts given in the classroom and on class syllabi to students before material containing potentially traumatic subject matter is presented. Students who had to leave class to avoid the material would not have their grades lowered for missing class. Mr. Valenzuela also expressed support for the University’s formation of a team to facilitate community college transfer.

2. Mr. Guillermo Rogel, UC Santa Cruz student and representative to the UCSC Academic Senate Committees on Admissions and Financial Aid, and on Planning and Budget, expressed his view that the relationship among the President of the University, the Board of Regents, and students is fragmented, even though they are working toward the same goals. It was difficult for undergraduates to attend Regents’ meetings at UCSF, particularly during finals week. He advocated increasing the lines of communication and developing a report on the status of UC Student Association (UCSA) campaigns.

3. Ms. Clara Skaug, UC Santa Cruz senior and chair of the UCSA Council on Student Fees, noted that the results of the Campus Climate Study were generally positive, with
79 percent of respondents reporting being comfortable with the climate at their UC location. However, members of underrepresented groups reported feeling less comfortable overall. Work remained to be done to make UC welcoming and inviting to all. She observed that one goal of UCSA’s Invest in Graduation Not Incarceration, Transform Education (IGNITE) campaign was to seek increased funding for campus recruitment and retention centers, which are critical for students from underserved communities.

4. Ms. Aurelia Friedman, second-year UCLA student and director of local affairs at UCLA’s Undergraduate Student Association Council’s External Vice President’s office, encouraged the Board to hold some of its meetings in Southern California to provide access for UC students in that area. She stated that making the Campus Climate Study survey shorter would encourage more undergraduate students’ participation. Ms. Friedman also spoke against a tuition increase, urging the Board to work with students to advocate for adequate UC funding.

5. Mr. Ian Saxton, UC alumnus, accused the University of maximizing profits, participating in unjust wars, and creating surveillance technologies. He stated that some Regents have business interests in conflict with the University’s mission. He spoke against the 2011 mistreatment of student protestors who were airing legitimate grievances.

President Napolitano introduced UCSA President Kareem Aref, third-year UC Riverside student.

Mr. Aref stated that UCSA agreed with the Board that the State’s 2014-15 funding for UC should be increased. UC is supposed to be a public university, but the State was not providing sufficient funds for the University to be a public system. UC students support fully funded public higher education. All elements of the UC community should stand together to advocate for adequate State funding.

UCSA supports SB 1017, a nine percent oil severance tax that would create $300 million for UC, $300 million for California State University, $300 million for California community colleges, and $300 million for K-12 annually. UCSA would lobby for this measure during its Sacramento lobby conference April 4-7. He urged the Board to support SB 1017, which would accomplish something that many states already do.

Regarding UCSA’s fossil free campaign, Mr. Aref asked the Board to support establishment of a task force for sustainable investing. UCSA was pleased that the University reached a contract with American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees service workers and urged settlement with AFSCME patient care workers. Mr. Aref thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and looked forward to UCSA’s continuing work with the Regents. Chairman Varner responded that the Board would work closely with students in advocating for increased State funding.
The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff