

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

January 23, 2014

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

Members present: Regents Blum, De La Peña, Feingold, Flores, Gould, Island, Kieffer, Lansing, Makarechian, Napolitano, Newsom, Pattiz, Reiss, Ruiz, 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 Presidents Dooley and Stobo, Vice Presidents Brown and Lenz, Chancellors Blumenthal, Desmond-Hellmann, Katehi, Wilcox, and Yang, and Recording Secretary McCarthy

The meeting convened at 10:55 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. Murray Morgan said that he was highly educated, but had faced discrimination and had to take jobs for which he was overqualified. He had faced false felony charges that were subsequently dismissed, at tremendous personal cost. His retirement earnings are insufficient.

2. Ms. Clara Skaug, UC Santa Cruz student and chair of the UC Student Association (UCSA) Council on Student Fees, called the Regents' attention to UCSA's Invest in Graduation Not Incarceration, Transform Education (IGNITE) campaign. One focus of this campaign is to secure increased funding for UC campus outreach and retention centers, which are a valuable resource for students who come from historically underserved communities. Ms. Skaug reported that many students feel that these centers are not adequately funded. For example, because of funding cuts, six UC Santa Cruz centers that serve different student populations have been forced to consolidate staffs and now share only two program coordinators. Institutional support must be maintained for those very student populations UC seeks to attract. She urged the Regents to increase funding for outreach and retention centers across the UC system.

3. Ms. Vanessa Garcia, UC San Diego student and UCSA student affairs chair, drew the Board's attention to a circulating petition with more than 15,000 signatures regarding a change to the quarter system that has been implemented for the next school year, decreasing the winter break to two weeks. Many students oppose this change for a variety of reasons. Out-of-state students need time to visit their families and plane travel during that narrow window is very expensive and students need sufficient time to decompress from the strenuous ten-week quarter system. Some students oppose a change to accommodate only one religion.
4. Ms. Summer Shafer, UC Riverside student, said that online education initiatives should be thought through carefully. Generally, students feel that a hybrid model would be more valuable than completely online classes, which lack interaction, a key aspect in the quality of higher education. In a hybrid system, students could access online materials, but would still have personal help when needed. Online education should be used to enhance, not completely alter, the UC educational system.
5. Mr. Arthur Valenzuela, UC Santa Barbara transfer student from a California community college, asked the Regents to explore the following ways to streamline the transfer process: develop an Associate Degree for Transfer into the UC system similar to that used for transfer into a California State University; use common course numbering to facilitate transfer of community college classes to a UC; and increase the availability of transferrable online courses that would help community college students who are juggling demanding school and work schedules.
6. Ms. Gabi Kirk, UC Santa Cruz alumna who works with Jewish Voice for Peace, refuted statements made in the prior day's public comment by Ms. Tammi Rossman-Benjamin from the AMCHA Initiative, who claimed that recent events at UC Davis, UC Riverside, and UC Davis were anti-Semitic and against University policy and State law. Ms. Kirk expressed her view that proponents of the AMCHA Initiative often misrepresent criticism of Israel as anti-Semitism. She stated that Ms. Rossman-Benjamin inaccurately attributed a quote to Omar Barghouti that was in fact from another source. The UC Davis event was an educational, not political, event with speakers from the Jewish, Native American, and Filipino communities about issues faced by many students of color. Ms. Kirk remarked that AMCHA Initiative's legal complaints at UC Irvine, UC Berkeley, and UC Santa Cruz were found to be unsubstantiated, and were recently withdrawn at UC Santa Barbara. Ms. Kirk added that the systemwide Academic Senate University Committee on Academic Freedom had written a letter to the Academic Council urging a rejection of any limitation on free speech at UC.
7. Mr. Brian Malone, UC graduate student and a member of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2865, said that graduate students are the key to research and undergraduate education at UC. He presented a formal UAW complaint that he said would be filed with the Public Employment Relations Board charging the University with refusing to bargain with the union on quality of education issues. Graduate students have told their managers that undergraduate class sizes of 300 to 400 students, supported with one or even no teaching assistant, negatively affect students who rely on one-to-one contact with

graduate instructors, particularly students with limited support systems. Graduate students have also expressed concern that decreasing graduate student support damages UC's ability to attract highly qualified graduate students, weakens graduate programs, harms faculty research, and undermines access to and the quality of education for undergraduates. Management has said graduate students should not be concerned with these issues. Mr. Malone urged the Regents to take these concerns seriously, as graduate students are the canaries in the coal mine.

8. Ms. Rebecca Pierce, UC Santa Cruz graduate, refuted some remarks made during the prior day's public comment session by speakers claiming to represent UC Jewish students. Ms. Pierce stated that many Jewish students across UC and the nation are critical of Israel; there is a great diversity among Jewish students' points of view. She participated in the Committee for Justice in Palestine, and cited ways the group was inaccurately accused of being anti-Semitic.
9. Mr. Ruscal Cayangyang, UC Berkeley student and former member of the Napa Valley College Board of Trustees, asked about the University's policy regarding its general fund reserve since UC would receive increased revenue from the State. He advocated forming a task force to examine the California Master Plan for Higher Education and its application for the next 50 years.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff