

Office of the President

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON AUDIT:

DISCUSSION ITEM

For the Meeting of September 22, 2005 Powerpoint presentation

UC WILLED BODY PROGRAMS: STATUS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW STANDARDS

In January 2005, former Vice President for Health Affairs, Dr. Michael V. Drake, provided an update to The Regents on the status of the University's Willed (or Donated) Body Programs and changes in oversight and management of these programs that were recommended to the Office of the President by Navigant Consulting, Inc.

Since that update, the Office of Health Affairs, working with former California Governor George Deukmejian, the medical school campuses, the Office of General Counsel, and the University Auditor, have reviewed these recommendations and developed new systemwide policies and guidelines for UC Willed/Donated Body programs. These documents set forth standards for governance and oversight of campus programs and address issues ranging from donor registration, to preparation and allocation of materials, identification and tracking of specimens, records management, and standards for security, staffing and personnel.

Each year nearly a thousand Californians make an extraordinary gift to the University's medical school campuses by donating their bodies to support education and scientific research in the health sciences. The University recognizes the value and importance of these gifts and is committed to preserving the dignity of those who donate their bodies and to ensuring that these gifts are stored, used, and disposed of with care and respect. These anatomical materials (also referred to as willed or donated bodies, cadavers, and/or human or anatomical specimens) are used for a variety of purposes, including gross anatomy instruction, surgical procedural training, anatomical and physiological research, allied health education, forensic research and training, mortuary science education, and the development and testing of new medical devices.

Within the University, these materials are managed by a Willed or Donated Body Program. Each of the University's five medical schools has historically operated a program that provides human anatomical specimens for use in medical education and research. In addition to supplying this material to UC students and researchers, several UC programs serve as the primary supplier of human anatomical materials to other educational institutions throughout California, including California State Universities and California Community Colleges.

When University officials learned in early 2004 that staff at UCLA's Willed Body Program were allegedly providing human anatomic specimens to non-university research programs for personal financial gain, an investigation led to the arrest of the campus program director. Pursuant to court order, the UCLA program is currently prohibited from accepting new donations.

In April 2004, President Dynes requested that former Governor George Deukmejian lead a systemwide effort that would result in new standards and practices for management and oversight of these programs. Acting on this charge, and in coordination with Governor Deukmejian, former Vice President Drake convened a working group of medical school deans, campus program directors, faculty, Office of the General Counsel, and the Office of the University Auditor to assess the practices of the various programs and develop systemwide policies that would identify best practices, increase security, and reduce risk in the operation of these programs. This group retained the services of Navigant Consulting, Inc. to evaluate each program, identify specific areas of concern, and make recommendations for change. Since then, and with ongoing oversight by Interim Vice President for Health Affairs, Dr. Cathryn L. Nation, systemwide efforts have been made to develop new standards and policies, and to implement campus and systemwide changes based on these recommendations.

Among the products of these efforts are the attached final draft documents entitled "**Systemwide Policy on the Donated Body Programs** of the University of California" and the "**University of California Donated Body Program Donation Agreement.**" These documents outline new standards and guidelines that reflect both the recommendations contained in the Navigant report and best practices nationally. They offer transparency and redundancy through dual oversight mechanisms on campus and by the Office of the President. These changes in oversight and management, together with the adoption of new standards for records management, material tracking, audit, and information are intended to assure that UC programs meet the needs and expectations of the communities they serve, including, very importantly, those of donors and their families.

(Attachments: **One** and **Two**)