

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

May 16, 2002

The Regents of the University of California met on the above date at Covell Commons, Los Angeles campus.

Present: Regents Atkinson, Davies, T. Davis, Hopkinson, Johnson, Kozberg, Lozano, Marcus, Montoya, Moores, Morrison, Preuss, Sayles, and Seymour

In attendance: Regents-designate Sainick and Terrazas, Faculty Representatives Binion and Viswanathan, Secretary Trivette, General Counsel Holst, Treasurer Russ, Senior Vice President Mullinix, Vice Presidents Broome, Gomes, and Hershman, Chancellors Berdahl, Bishop, Carnesale, Cicerone, Dynes, Greenwood, Tomlinson-Keasey, Vanderhoef, and Yang, Acting Chancellor Warren, and Recording Secretary Bryan

The meeting convened at 8:40 a.m. with Chairman Moores presiding.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Moores explained that the Board had been convened as a Committee of the Whole in order to permit members of the public an opportunity to comment on the day's agenda and on University-related matters not on the month's agenda. The following persons addressed the Board on the subjects noted:

1. **Item 504, Committee on Finance: *Amendment of the University of California Retirement Plan – To Provide Relative Equity of Retirement Benefits for University of California Retirement Plan Members with Opposite-Sex Domestic Partners*** and **Item 505, *Amendment of the University of California Retirement Plan – To Provide Relative Equity of Retirement Benefits for Unmarried University of California Retirement Plan Members with No Eligible Survivors or Eligible Domestic Partner***
 - A. Mr. Tom Coleman, representing the American Association for Single Persons and speaking on behalf of Mr. Michael Vasquez and Mr. Wayne Salvador, stated that the association was concerned with securing equal rights for unmarried Americans. He believed that the University's benefits had been based on a model of the family that dated from the 1950s and needed to be reformed. He believed that the President's recommendation raised the possibility that the Regents may consider expanding health benefits to cover opposite-sex domestic partners, which would be more in line with University policy.

2. **Item 503, Committee on Finance: *Amendment of the University of California Retirement Plan – To Provide Relative Equity of Retirement Benefits for University of California Retirement Plan Members with Same-Sex Domestic Partners***

Speakers A. through H. represented the University of California Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Association.

- A. Ms. Shane Snowdon spoke in support of the President's recommendation. She believed that its passage would be important for employee morale, public opinion, and the University's image.
- B. Mr. Robert Anderson commented that members of the association had waited a long time for benefits to be granted to the domestic partner of a University employee who dies.
- C. Ms. Pat McDonough, an associate professor at UCLA, believed that the University's policy concerning benefits had placed her family in jeopardy. She advocated approval of the recommendation.
- D. Ms. Kathy Eiler, an Irvine campus employee, supported equal benefits for her domestic partner. Her mother, who accompanied her, commented that she would be pleased to know that her children would be covered equally without regard to their sexual orientation.
- E. Mr. James Forcier, an employee of University Extension, pointed out that under the current policy his seriously disabled domestic partner, whom he supports, would lose that support if he were to die.
- F. Ms. Regina Lark, a UCLA employee, noted that she would have to opt to reduce her pension in order to ensure that her domestic partner would receive medical coverage in the future.
- G. Ms. Caroline Clark, a UCLA employee, asked the Regents to use their power to ensure that equal benefits are provided for all employees.
- H. Ms. Ronni Sanlo advocated passage of the President's recommendation.

3. The following people spoke on University-related topics:

- A. Mr. Murray Morgan stated that the Regents had been useless in helping him resolve his differences with the University concerning research integrity. He called for President Atkinson and Chancellor Vanderhoef to step down.
- B. Mr. Rich Reed observed that the University would be in a position to end illiteracy if its faculty would be open to fundamental reforms. He suggested that English spelling should be revised to resemble Russian spelling.

- C. Dr. Tom Lee, a UCLA faculty member, reported that during his work to provide medical care for Burmese nationals displaced as a result of atrocities committed by the military regime in Burma, he had learned that all aid to ethnic minorities had been cut off and that aid workers had been killed by soldiers. He believed that the University should divest from corporations doing business with Burma.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary